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For the Blade.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

BY J. N. MATTHEWS.

THE DAY BEFORE.

The piling snow is heaped against the pane,
The winds blow shrill, the frozen sidewalks
ache,
The shutters rattle, and the gables creak,
And icy twigs snap spitefully in twain;
The homeless cattle shiver up the lane,
Looking the pity that they can not speak,
Against the coldest day of all the week,
The bleakest of mid-winter's train.
The night comes on! across the trackless field,
The muffled children hurry in from school,
With noisy glee,—the sturdy boys to wield
The glancing axes on the logs of Yule,
The girls to revel mid the wreathy steam
Of bubbling pots, and chilly crocks of cream.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

And now the good St. Nick is come and gone,
And many a fluffy head bursts into flower,
Above the blanket, at the twilight hour,
With darting eyes that dip into the dawn,
Seeing the cheery chimney-jam, whereon
The pouting stocking, like some toppling
tower,
Breaks with its weight, and splits into a
shower
Of broken rainbows, round a tropic zone.
The sun climbs up and on! the merry chime
Of mellow sleigh-bells tinkling o'er the snow;
Each crimpled shrub is rimpled up with rime,
And from the eaves the long icicles grow,
Till night steals on, and moonbeams thro' the
trees,
Kiss down our lids to pleasant memories.

THE DAY AFTER.

Deep in the woods the echoing ax is heard,
Among the hills and by the frozen streams;
And boys are shouting at their restless teams,
In ringing hollows of the forest weird.
The watchful rabbit from the brush-pile seared,
Goes leaping, and the startled partridge
gleams
An instant, on its burnished wing, then seems
To melt into the uplands newly cleared.
Christmas is gone! the mellow bells are dumb,
And parting guests are pausing at the door;
The rustic school resumes its rowdy hum,
And broken toys lie scattered o'er the floor.
Again the monster wood-pile glimmers gray,
And beefy barns are bubbling o'er with hay.

NASBY IN EXILE.

Second Series.

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XV.

More About Berlin--Government Surveillance------Manufactures------Names---Building Art in Brick---Sans Souci---Prussian Officers---Miscellaneous Matters--An American Enoch Arden.

The German Government keeps a paternal control of the people, something more than paternal. Within a week after your arrival in any German City you must register at the police office, and if you neglect it, both you and the proprietor of the house where you lodge are fined. Guests at a hotel for over a week must be registered by the proprietor, and even laborers and servant girls going from one City to another are obliged to provide themselves with a sort of pass book in which is written where they come from and whither they go, and what their business is, which they must show whenever required. It is inconvenient, but it has some good points about it. It is an invasion of the rights and privileges of a thief, for he is known to the police the same as an honest man, and the perfect police surveillance is one reason for the little crime there is in Germany. The authorities know all about the stranger within their gates, and they know his outgoings and incomings with great certainty. The stranger does not realize that he is well watched, but he is.

GERMAN PROTECTION.

Berlin is one of the most important manufacturing centers in Europe, its manufactures having increased wonderfully since the Franco-Prussian War. Germany declared her independence of France after that struggle, and will take nothing of France that she can possibly make herself. The Berliners claim that their City has more industries to-day than Paris, and that even in articles of luxury they are in no sense inferior to the French, and their claim has a foundation in fact. They manufacture clothes of the finest, carpets, bronze goods, jewelry, and in fact everything. They make as many "notions" as New England, and their mechanics are widening the borders of her trade every day.

Germany has the good sense to protect her manufactures, though she is exceedingly desirous that America shall do away with all tariffs, and admit goods free. The struggle on the tariff question now in progress in the United States is watched with intense interest, every principal paper commenting upon it daily. As a matter of course they all want America to kill out American manufactures that they may have the market for themselves. Germany is about as disinterested in this matter as England.

GERMAN PATRONYMICS.

Shakspere to the contrary, there is a great deal in a name. A rose by any other name would not smell as sweet. The names are very intimately connected, and a pretty thing must have a pretty name, or very much of its attractiveness is lost. A statesman would make small headway were his name Muggins, no matter how splendid his abilities, and a poet compelled to bear the unpoetical name of Snooks would have to sing very sweetly to make up for the unmelodious name attached to his work. The Englishman named Bugg, who had his name changed to Norfolk Howard, was only wrong in going from one extreme to the other. No one can blame him for desiring to escape from "Bugg," but his adoption of the ultra aristocratic Norfolk Howard was too long a step.

Germany has more absurd patronymics than any country in the world, but the bearers of them do not seem to care for it. The Berlin directory is full of the most curious names, carried not only by the common people, but by those of good families and holding prominent positions in all the walks of life. One of the most ancient noble families bears the family name of "Gate-Keeper of Hell"—that is the English of it, and another of the oldest families is "Handle-of-Thunder-Marrow." Then imagine families named "Blood Sausage," or "Two-Year-Old-White-Boar!" One family name is "Murder," another "Wicked-Village," "Beast-Corner," "Goose-Eye," "Bug Life," indeed, the directory is full of names just as absurd.

The Jews are more inappropriately named than the Gentiles; however, there is a reason for the singularity of their cognomens. In the olden times they were known only by their family names, supplemented by distinguishing additions. This vagueness of name was of great help to the Jew in dodging the tax-gatherer, and for taxation and military purposes the Government compelled them to take family names, and transmit them to their posterity by registration. When they neglected or refused to do this, names were given them, and in these cases the German sense of humor was satisfied by giving them the most inappropriate name possible. If a Jew was especially ill-looking he was named "Valley of Lillies," or "Rose-Garden," or "Flower-Valley," or something of the kind, and if he was especially tricky he was named "Good-Trust." The frequency of pretty names among the Jews comes also from the Oriental instincts of the race. As he was compelled to choose a name, he selected, when he did it himself, the most pleasing he could find, leaving the ugly and unpleasant ones to his more stolid and less sensitive neighbors.

A WOULD-BE PARIS.

The Berlin directory contains thousands of names, which, translated into English, are "Doornail," "Blister-Village," "Bowel-Town," "Horse-Deceiver," "Scissors-Corner," and others equally curious. The English Smith, Jones, Brown and Thompson are respectable when put in comparison with these suggestive cognomens.

Berlin is a city that is trying to be a Paris, but cannot. After the Franco-Prussian war it was the ambition of Berlin to make it the fashionable center of Europe. But they did not take into calculation the difference in race and customs. Paris is Paris because the Parisian is a Parisian, and because nature intended Paris to be the fountain head of everything that is frivolous and purely artificial. A Berliner can no more be a Parisian than a dromedary can dance the Lancers. It isn't in the staid, sober German to be frivolous, and when he attempts it he makes a spectacle of himself. No German woman could ever dance the can-can, no German boy can imitate the Parisian gamin, no German tradesman can be like the Parisian shop-keeper. Nature fixed barriers, fortunately, over which people cannot pass.

Berlin is built solid as the German in his normal condition always does, but it must be confessed that the wild ambition to make a fine, as well as great City in a few years, that got possession of them after France was compelled to pour her millions into Germany to indemnify the victors for the cost of the great war, led them into a great deal of sham work, for which they will repent in time. Immense structures which, built in the good old way, would have taken years to construct, are being run up, *a la* Chicago, in a few months, but they are not German. The walls are thin, the joist is wooden, the staircases are of wood, and there is the Chicago lumber yard on the top made into a fanciful roof, all of which will burn some day, and take with them the really good buildings around them. These pretentious structures, which, for a time, will look imposing and beautiful, will shrink and be torn apart, the stucco which converts ignoble brick into royal granite will peel off and make the sides look like so many death's heads, and finally a fire will start under one of the wooden staircases, and in a few minutes, long before the clumsy fire departments, all that are necessary for the old and well-built City, can reach them, there will be a smoldering mass of ruins. That is what is going to happen in New Berlin. The old way of building is the best. A fine City is the work of years—it cannot be run up in a single decade.

It is only fair to say, however, that all of the new part of Berlin is not of this class. The great flow of money into the country after the war induced the erection of immense structures of a perfectly solid kind. But they are not Parisian. There is a solidity, a German solidity about them—well they are German, and not French, and that is the whole thing in a nut-shell. Boulevartis were laid out, as fine as any in Paris, but it is not a combination of trees, asphalt pavement and splendid buildings alone that make the boulevards of Paris attractive. It is the people, and the kind of people that swarm in them, and that Berlin has not and never will have. They have their approaches to the *Jardin Mabille*, but no German woman can dance as the French woman does, and when French women are imported German taste revolts. So Berlin will always be Berlin, as Paris will always be Paris.

Then too the ambition is too recent. Paris is the growth of centuries—the new Berlin dates only back to the great war. It has made great progress in manufactures, it has wonderfully extended its trade and added to its wealth, which is natural, for there are no more enterprising or skilful people than the Germans. With this added to its being the center of German political power, Berlin must be satisfied. It can no more be a fashionable center than London. It will never be even an art center. Dresden and Munich have that distinction, as Leipsic has the book trade. Courts do not control art and literature. There were art and literary centers in Germany before Berlin, and their homes once chosen there they stay. The power of King and Kaiser, the military genius of Von Moltke and the statecraft of Bismarck may make and unmake kingdoms, and control the politics of the world, but it cannot dictate the shape of a woman's dress, the color of her stocking or the style of her hat, nor can it paint a picture or write a book. These are a long way above Kings and Prime Ministers. Genius and taste have capitals of their own, and are laws unto themselves.

ARTISTIC BRICK-WORK.

In no city that we have seen is there such use made of brick as in Berlin. The finest of the recent buildings are constructed of this material, not merely the body of the walls, but the facings and the decorations. The great railroad depots which cover acres and acres, are built of brick, as well as the elevated structure upon arches upon which the roads are carried into the city, and wonderfully beautiful they are. The face brick are as smooth and fine grained as marble, even more so, and they are molded into the architect's designs, so that any device is worked out as well in brick as by the artist's chisel, and at much less cost. And to add to the effect, the bricks are burned in all colors, so that copings, water-tables, caps, sills and panels may be varied at pleasure. The Rath-haus, or City Hall, one of the most imposing and beautiful buildings in the great City, is constructed entirely of brick, and its facades are as elaborate and intricate in design as any in stone by the chisel.

This same Rath-haus is well-worthy a visit. The halls in it are among the finest in the Empire, and the furnishing and finishing are worthy of the great municipality of which it is the legal heart. In the great audience chamber is the celebrated picture of the Berlin Conference, which looks as though it had been painted to show exactly how much greater, physically and mentally, Bismarck is than all the other European statesmen. The picture represents the vast hall in which the Council was held, and the figures are life-like, speaking portraits of the members. Among them Bismarck towers up like Saul among the Prophets, a head and shoulders above the others, and he looks every inch the giant he is.

The inscriptions on the walls of the great hall used for the sittings of what may be called the Common Council of the City are thoroughly German. One reads:

"Look not to the heavens—on the earth stands the shoe."

And another:

"Look well to yourself—foam is no beer."

Both of which are as true as they are terse. The walls are liberally ornamented with philosophy, all as practical and homely as these two examples.

With true German economy, which utilizes everything, the basement of this enormous structure—it occupies two entire squares—is rented by the Government to a brewing company, who have converted the entire cellar and sub-cellar into a beer-hall and restaurant. To go through this vast establishment is a good decent walk, even if you want exercise, and it is crowded from early morning till late into the night, with beer-drinking and sausage and cheese consuming people. It is all arched, the arches sustaining the enormous structure above, and tables are artistically arranged in the alcoves made by the arches, and, as it is all brilliantly lighted night and day, the effect is not only peculiar, but pleasing. It is a great source of revenue to the City, and a mint of money to those owning the lease.

SANS SOUCI.

Half an hour from Berlin is one of the loveliest spots imaginable. When the eccentric old King, Frederick the Great, tired of the duties of Court life, he left the capital and hid himself in the beauties of Sans Souci, near Potsdam, one of the finest parks in the world. The castle was built under his direction, and he superintended the laying out of the grounds, which even in this day of luxury are the marvel of every one who sees them. The Park is about half a mile from Potsdam, which up to the time Frederick took it for his Summer residence, was but an insignificant country Town, but now has a population of 45,000. Leaving the City there is a broad avenue, lined with great old trees, leading to the Park proper, the first view of which is up the principal avenue leading to the great fountain, beyond which, high up the terrace is the castle. This avenue is flanked with a garden tastefully laid out, and filled with the choicest flowers and plants, reaching back as far as can be seen. In the center is a large open space where there is a great fountain which plays on certain days, a large stream shooting up 140 feet into the air. This open place is surrounded with marble statues of various designs, none of them remarkable works of art, except the equestrian statue of the great warrior, of Carrara marble. It is something similar to the one in the City, and is a rare piece of work.

From this statue there is a broad flight of steps leading up to the first terrace, a great plateau, covered for hundreds of yards on both sides of the walk, with artistic designs worked out beautifully with living flowers and plants. From here there are five more terraces, each one embellished with beautiful flowers and plants and vines trained in all conceivable shapes and forms. There are peculiar little trees so trimmed as to make pretty arbors, and side walls to covered promenades; there are innumerable artistic vases and urns in all imaginable shapes and designs—in short, everything that human taste and skill could devise is used to adorn and beautify these terraces.

At the top of the last terrace there is a large open space in which are exquisite statues and fountains. Also a mass of flowers in fancifully devised beds, and back of this is a low, long building, of a yellowish-white color, which is the famous palace, "Sans Souci," of the great old King, Frederick the Great. After noticing the rather gaudy decorations on the front of the palace—they are mostly stucco work of rather questionable taste—the visitor goes around to the back, rings a bell, and after a considerable wait, a venerable old man, who looks like a Field Marshal out of a situation, with a faded uniform, opens the big double doors and exposes to view the interior of the Sans Souci.

THE INTERIOR.

The first room was used as a sort of a reception room, and is elegantly finished in white and gold. The floor is of marble, the walls are finely decorated with fine paintings, the ceiling is exquisitely frescoed, and everything shows the touch of royalty. Opening from this is the grand salon, which is more elegant than the first room, the frescoes being especially fine. There are also numerous portraits of celebrated men hanging on the walls. The marble columns in this room, as well as the Carrara marble statues, are of the finest quality and workmanship. Adjoining this salon is the music room, with the old piano that Frederick used. On a little table stands a small clock which the King used to wind. The hands indicate the time, 20 minutes after 2 o'clock, when the King died, on the 17th of August, 1786, and it is said that the clock stopped at that very instant, just as it did in that infernal song which so long persecuted the American public:

"And it stopped short, never to go again,
When the old man died."

You may believe as much of that sort of thing as you choose. The Field Marshal in reduced circumstances who reels off the story of the rooms assures you that it is all true, but then he must have the circumstances to relate or he wouldn't earn his money. He was shocked when one of the party figured up the chances of such a coincidence, but he insisted that it wasn't a coincidence at all—that the clock was a part of the being of the great King, that it stopped when fully wound, and it never could be induced to run after the breath left his body.

This room was one of Frederick's favorites, and he spent a great deal of his time in it. The walls are hung with paintings by the celebrated French artist, Watteau, and they are exquisite, some of them being masterpieces of the great painter.

Off this room is Frederick's bed-room, where he passed his last days, the room standing to-day with all the original furniture, everything being just as it was when he passed away.

In a little wing on the north of the castle is the library, with the royal writing-desk, a few pictures and one or two busts, the best of which is that of Herner, of whose works Frederick was very fond. The furniture is very fine here, as it is in all the other rooms of the palace, although one of the finest chairs in the library is badly torn and tattered, it having been the special resting place of one of the many dogs the eccentric sovereign delighted to have about him all the time. So fond was he of his canine pets that when they died they were carefully interred in a little arbor that can be seen from the library windows, and over each grave is a stone bearing the name of the dog whose grave it marks.

The arrangement of the library is excellent. It is well lighted by immense bay-windows. All around the room, which is octagonal in form, are book-cases set into the wall, filled with well-worn books, many of them bearing book-marks placed there by Frederick himself.

From the library a door opens into the pages' rooms, where visitors desiring an audience with His Highness were announced. There are a number of sofas on the sides of the room, all extremely narrow, Frederick having had them made narrow that the pages in waiting could not lounge or sleep on them.

Here, as in other rooms, there are a number of Watteau's, each of them a perfect gem, both in drawing and coloring. Most of them are the pastoral scenes that Watteau could paint so much better than any other artist.

The other portion of the palace is devoted to the servant's quarters, and are not shown to the public. This place was the favorite residence of the great King, and he often declared that nowhere else in the world could he enjoy life so much as at Sans Souci.

FRITZ'S PLEASURES.

The eccentric old fellow was a King, and a great one, but he had the most sublime contempt for royalty, nobility, and all that class of frauds. He delighted in getting away from the court proper and burying himself in this delightful retreat, surrounded with men of literary, scientific and musical attainments, and having what to him was actual enjoyment. Voltaire was a constant friend of Frederick's, and he declared that Sans Souci was "the paradise of philosophy." The King quarreled with him, and Voltaire quarreled with the King as no other man could, but they loved each other, and Frederick was never so happy as when with him. There is no royalty in genius or dogs, and Frederick was fond of both.

Passionately fond of music, he had about him all the great composers and performers of the day; in short, he made Sans Souci, as its name implies, a palace where he could throw off the stiff robes of royalty and disport himself, figuratively, in his shirt-sleeves.

On the way to "The Orangery," a large building, in the Florentine style of architecture, belonging also to the Park, the road leads past a great old windmill, the owner of which refused to sell it to the King when the gardens were laid out. Frederick was furious, and stormed around in a terrible manner, after his fashion; but the peasant was as stubborn as the King, and refused to sell it or give it away.

"I can take the land by force," said Frederick to the peasant.

"So you could," was the calm reply, "were it not for the High Court of Justice."

As arbitrary as was the King he could not proceed to extremities, and so the peasant retained possession of his land on which was the windmill, and the gardens were built all around it. After the death of the peasant it passed into the possession of Frederick, who permitted the windmill to stand, as he said, as a monument to the King's sense of justice and regard for the rights of his subjects. You may also believe as much of this as you choose. The fact is the old mill, quaint as it is, is strikingly picturesque, and, standing as it does, could not be taken away without marring the picture. That's why it remains.

The gardens in this vicinity excel in beauty the part directly in front of the Palace. There are avenues of old trees, forming long arbors; there are terraces, ravines, little hills, long, wide plateaus, all covered with the rarest kind of flowers; statues everywhere, and fountains playing at all times. It is one vast maze of beauty, where weeks could be spent without enjoying all that is interesting and delightful.

The Orangery is now used as a picture gallery, although most of the good pictures were taken some time since to the new National Gallery in Berlin. There are a few fairly good copies of Rubens, and some fair sculptures, but comparatively little of real interest.

One of the finest of the many fine views in the neighborhood of the Palace is that from the Ruinenberg, a high eminence, half an hour back from the Palace, on which there are artificial ruins, built many years ago upon the great reservoir that supplies the water for the fountains in the garden of Sans Souci, the principal one of which throws a stream of water 140 feet high.

PICTURES IN GRASS AND WOODS.

The garden proper is surrounded on all sides by a magnificent forest, the trees of which were planted so as to produce the best possible effects from every point of view. Now they are old and fully grown and they tower up above the plants and shrubs they shade, like woodland giants. Broad paths wind among them in every direction, and so great are they that they form a never-ending arbor, through which the rays of the sun cannot penetrate. One may wander under their delightful shade for hours at a time and have a new view, a new scene, always before him. Here the ground slopes down to a pretty basin of water surrounded with statues, there it rises to a slight eminence, surmounted with exquisite fountains, farther on it stretches off in a long vista of lawn and artificial arbors, turning from which to the right or left brings you unawares upon the beautiful blooming flowers of the garden, whose rose-lined paths lead to constantly increasing floral beauties.

On either hand far across the deep ravine on one side and the river on the other, are seen, dimly outlined against the blue sky, low-lying hills that nearly surround Potsdam, the river making the break in front of the Town. Directly in front, across a little gully, rises the Gray Palace, which nearly hides from view the great gardens that stretch away on either side of it, till they are lost in the foliage of the forest trees far beyond. Look in any direction nothing can be seen that is not beautiful.

The arrangement of the forest and the garden it surrounds is in the highest degree artistic, and no one, no matter how prosaic or matter-of-fact he may be, can go through them without delight. Even a Chicago pork-packer becomes enthusiastic. It is something that will not admit of a mere cursory glance and a passing remark that it is "very pretty." It calls out the most extravagant praise. King Frederick was a capricious old gentleman, and when he determined to have a place where there could be no care, he went into it with his whole heart, and he came as near making a perfect place as mortal man ever did.

Aside from the gardens and palace there is but very little of interest in Potsdam proper, except the garrison church, where is a vault, under the pulpit, in which the remains of Frederick the Great, and of his father, Frederick William I., are interred. In the Palace near the long bridge are many reminiscences of the founder of Sans Souci. His rooms are preserved in their original condition, and the guide points out his writing desk, covered with ink stains, his traveling cup, music stand and other various articles belonging to him. There are some fine pictures of the modern school recently placed there, and a number by Watteau and other French painters. The rooms are all large and decorated in the highest style of art. The old King used to entertain his friends here in great style, and occasionally, when he wanted a particularly good time, he dined in a large cabinet, into which the table was lowered by means of a trap door, so that the company could be entirely alone without attendants to overhear the wit, wisdom, and talk that was neither wit or wisdom that the King and his friends indulged in, when the wine was in.

PRUSSIAN OFFICERS.

On the return from Sans Souci there were in our compartment a half-dozen Prussian officers, and we had time and opportunity to make a more perfect study of these wonderful beings who are so important a cog in the wheel of the German government.

I have referred to the tightness of their trowsers, but one glance at them is not enough. They are fearfully and wonderfully made. How any tailor can take cloth and cut it to fit the shape of the leg so perfectly is a mystery; certainly we have no artists in America capable of so great an achievement. When a man has a perfectly-shaped figure they do very well; but as if Nature had a spite at the absurd uniform, she gave very few Prussian officers good legs. One was six feet high, with legs too long for his body, that were not more than six inches thick, the legs of another bowed, giving him the general appearance of being set up on elliptic springs, another was knock-kneed. In fact, there was but one whose legs would pass muster in an examination for supers in a theatrical Roman army. As the iron-clad rule of tightness does not permit the tailor to favor these defects in the slightest degree, the effect of this variegated assortment of legs was more curious than beautiful.

In *Punch* many years ago was a picture of two young swells, one of whom remarked:

"Chawles, what a wonderful neck-tie! How the doose do you manage it?"

Chawles—"Well, I fancy it is wather grand; but, then, my dear fellow, the fact is I give my whole mind to it!"

The one thing that a Prussian officer gives his whole mind to, after the important matter of the tightness of the trousers is settled, is his mustache. No matter whether it be black, yellow, red, or the neutral ashen blonde, it must receive so much care every day, and be nursed and watched all the time. It is carefully combed to a point, the ends are turned up toward the eyes, and those ends waxed to the point of staying there perpetually. It gives them a ferocious, man-eating, brigandish look, without which they would not be Prussian officers at all. It is a miracle in the way of pointed stiffness, and it is that one way all the time. It isn't pretty, but it is the fashion among military men, and they all, old and young, wear their lip-coverings in that way.

Clad in immaculate uniform, his boots polished to a degree that is painful, with his helmet glistening in the sun, and his sword clinking upon the pavement as he steps off with a step no other man ever attained, the Prussian officer is something that once seen will never be forgotten. He walks as though he was really of the procession, and was an actual necessity in the world.

BERLIN POVERTY.

There is no distinctive poor quarter in Berlin, that is, such as are found in other Cities. There are streets that are squalid, and where poverty has left its unmistakable mark, but the poor live in better houses and in more comfort than in any City on the continent. Labor is plentiful, and, for Europe, tolerably well paid, because the City is growing very rapidly, and the Goverment is expending vast sums of money on improvements. But the one great reason is the entire absence of spirituous liquors. The Berlin workingman does not stupify himself with gin or strong ale as does his British brother, or with gin alone as does the Hollander. He drinks only a very light beer, and, however great the quantity he consumes, it is so light that it does not unfit him for labor, and so cheap that its cost is not a serious matter. Three cents is the cost of nearly a quart of it, and they have a superstition that three cents worth of beer takes the place of the same money in bread. Whether nutritious or not it invariably accompanies food.

Women work in Berlin the same as all over Germany, and at the most masculine employments. They have a great many of the rights of men, here; a great many. They have the right to carry bricks and mortar up steep ladders to the tops of buildings, they have the right to load and unload coal from cars, they have the right to shovel earth on the grade and saw wood in the streets, and they have the right to go barefooted and do almost everything that men do, only more so.

To an American it is not a pleasant sight. But like the eel that was being skinned, they are probably used to it. At all events they looked contented, and ate their black bread and drank their beer with an evident relish. This sort of thing will do verywell for Germany, but it would not answer in the United States. These muscular females do not dress in the afternoon, and take promenades along the principal streets, in fact they don't dress at all, except what they put on every morning and take off every night. They don't give tea parties, nor do they organize and conduct church fairs. They carry bricks, and dig up ground, and load and unload coal cars, and sleep, and rise to eat black bread and drink beer, and carry more bricks and dig more ground and load and unload more cars, to the end of their lives.

Possibly the women of America appreciate their privileges and possibly they do not. I wish every one of them could see the life of the average German woman of the lower class. No matter what her circumstances may be she would never sigh for a monarchy with exclusive privileges again, which is to say if she has any soul at all in her.

THE IMPERIAL FAMILY.

The Kaiser and his family are very popular, if the form of government they represent is not. They are an amiable family, and they have that great convenience, an unpopular Prime Minister. Whatever is harsh and oppressive in the Government is charged up to the account of Bismarck, and whatever is good goes to the credit of the Kaiser and the Crown Prince. It is Spenlow and Jorkins on a large scale. Bismarck maintains his position by constantly appealing to the National pride of the German people, and so, between National pride and personal popularity, no Emperor is more certain of his people. Portraits of himself and family stare you in the face everywhere, and just now the terrible infliction is a picture styled "Four Generations." A grandson of the Kaiser has been recently blest with a child, and the good natured Kaiser permitted him self to be photographed holding the infant in his arms, with the grandfather, the Crown Prince, and the father, his son, standing by. The Emperor tried to assume a great-grandfatherly expression, which fits his face about as a clown's grimace would Oliver Cromwell. He attempted to look domestic and succeeded in getting far enough along to appear imbecile. However it pleases the German people, and every cafe and beer-hall and every well regulated family has the absurdity.

GOING HOME.

We met an American in Berlin who was making his way home as best he could. He had been in Asia, Africa and everywhere about the world, and had not been home in 20 years. He had not had a letter or any intelligence from his wife in 15 years, and was in total ignorance of what had occurred in his absence.

He was in the last stage of seediness. His alleged trowsers were held up by a string, his boots had long since given up the struggle to keep out water, and the sad remains of what had once been a coat would scarcely hang upon his shoulders. He had walked from somewhere up north, and was making his way to Hamburg, where he intended to work a passage across the water, if he could not get over any other way. "Of course, I shan't work if I kin help it," he remarked, "but they are mighty hard upon us stowaways now. There's too many of us."

"Why do you go home at all?"

"I kind o' want to surprise the old lady," he replied. "I presume she 'sposes me dead years ago, and if so she has married again. She alluz was an enterprisin' go-ahead woman, and whenever she made up her mind that I had gone under, she caught on to somebody to take my place, you bet your life. Probably she has a dozen children by some other man, and is fixed nicely and comfortably. Of course, it's all a speculation, but I am gittin old, and havin' knocked around so much, naterally ain't wuth much any more. I shel go home, hunt up the old lady, and then let what happen that may. If she is well fixed I shan't go to makin' any fuss about it, but shall do the Enoch Arden business. I shall see her, quiet like, and find out if she hasn't got nothin' I shall go off and not disturb her. There ain't nothin' cruel about me. If she is married again I shel be very keerful not to see her husband, for he probably would immejitly insist on my takin' my wife back agin. She wouldn't want me to see him either for the same reason, and that is a string I shel pull. She ain't very desirable, bein' muscular, and no matter who her present loved husband is, she probably would prefer him to me. I never was popular with her. But if she is all right, say her present husband has a good farm, why she can't do less than to give me a decent support the rest of my life, especially as my wants are very few. If she is a widder with property, why of course she will be glad to welcome me back, and I will take my old place and manage her property, and be very much obliged to the deceest who did for her what I cood have never have done, accumulated suthin. While I never could git together any property myself, I am sure I could manage somebody else's. As I said if she is poor and destitoot, and ain't strong enough to take in washin', why I won't invade her grief at bein' widdered twice, and will slide out quietly without disturbing her at all.

"It's all a speculation, but as I kin work my passage over and am jest as well off when in Ameriky as I am anywhere, it's worth while.

"It's always a good speculation to venture suthin when you have nothin' to lose. You can, in that case, await the event with calm confidence. She may be poor, but if I remember her nature, she is well fixed by this time, if she is alive. Tough as she is—she lived with me five years—see these scars?—she is probably alive now."

He borrowed a dollar of Mr. Tibbitts, and we saw him no more."

For the Blade.

CHRISTMAS NIGHT.

BY MAURICE BARRY.

The glistening snow descends apace,
Clothing the world in robes of white,
Hiding away, as it were, all trace
Of sin and sorrow, for this one night.
This night, the happiest in the year,
Bringing to all love, peace and bliss,
Hallowed by memories old and dear;
Oh, who would be sad a night like this?

Who would be sad? Not you or I,
Whom God hath blessed with ample store;
The snows may fall, the winds may sigh,
Yet never a care dare cross our door.
But see that wretch who shivers and shrinks
Beneath the street-lamp's flickering light,
So gaunt, so cold; alas, methinks,
There may be hearts not glad to-night.

May be? *Are*, aye, many a one,
All over our City, everywhere,
Homeless, friendless, loved by none;
Creatures whose sorrows no one may share.
O, heart aglow with Charity's flame!
O, hand e'er ready to give Thy might!
These friendless waifs, in pity's name,
Implore your generous aid to-night.

Let a little ray o'er their hearts be shed,
Of that blessed light which God hath sent
To brighten your homes. Has He not said,
"What is given the poor to the Lord is lent?"
Oh doubt it not, for though you sup
The draughts of joy to your hearts delight,
The thought will rise and crown the cup,
"I've gladdened one sorrowing heart to-night."

For the Blade.

A CHRISTMAS QUARREL.

BY W. I. CLEASE.

Marlay was not dead, to begin with.

Not that it was any of your funeral, gentle reader, whether he was dead or no; but it's always good policy to preface a lie with the truth, so that you can say your story is at least founded upon fact. Moreover, it disarms suspicion, in telling a snake story, to offer the preliminary admission that you are a moderate drinker, on the same principle that—

"Often times, to win us to our harm,
The instruments of darkness tell us truths,
Win us with honest trifles, to betray us
In deepest consequence."

But enough of candor. Suffice it to say that Marley was as lively as a rocking chair. A less morbidly original writer would have said "as lively as a cricket," but any one who has fallen over both in the dark, must perceive that the wisdom of our ancestors failed to come to their rescue when they originated the cricket simile. Being alive, Marley was surprised to find that his deceased partner, the late Ebenezer Scrooge, had stolen a march on the relict of the firm, and got himself announced as the survivor and successor of Scrooge & Marley, but reflecting that Ebenezer always was a sharper, and one who never lost a chance to secure a little gratuitous advertising, he did not doubt the authenticity of the communication from the sprit world, and simply chuckled over the way the medium and the reporters must have been gulled. For all that, such was his respect for his late partner, that the sensational, pseudo-philanthropical narrative made a deep impression on his mind, and he determined to follow its teachings implicitly in the future.

But, O, he was round-faced, jolly, roly-poly old bachetor, with such a benevolent countenance that tramps never failed to brace him for the price of a dram, and hackmen and shoe-blacks invariably charged him double for their services, under the impression that he was to full to notice it. But he never minded it; he laughed heartily over the joke and very often gave a trifle more than the regular fare to reward the rascal for his sharpness.

While Scrooges lived the business had been quite profitable, because the senior partner looked well after the incomes and outgoes, and never lost a chance to turn an honest penny. Of course, he could not help bilking the easy-going Marley occasionally, but he was only one robber. As soon as he was gone, a whole horde of banditti swooped down to plunder his defenseless survivor. When he found, that becoming sole beneficiary of the business, actually diminished his income instead of increasing it, Mr. Marley began to appreciate the subtle paradox, that a part can be greater than the whole.

He would not have minded this, at least not very much, if it had not been that, 10 or 12 years before, he had fallen in love. His affection had been reciprocated, not returned, for Miss Amelia Betterdaze had suffered too much from reverses attempt to attempt to reverse the "current of his being," which, *a la* Locksley Hall, set toward her.

But here old Mrs. Betterdaze, Amelia's widowed mother, and emphatically a woman that cared for the gowd," stepped in and postponed the banns until such a time as Marley could maintain her daughter in that position in life in which she (the daughter) was born. Marley consented, for he was very hopeful and the business prospect looked bright, but as years went by and the balance at the bank increased so very slowly, hope weakened alarmingly. Still he kept up a good heart and celebrated Christmas as royally as even old Scrooge's ghost could have desired.

And now it was Christmas-time again, and he dutifully smoothed the wrinkles from his brow and donned his happy-go-to-Christmas smile. He might even have further improved his personal appearance, but circumstances forbade, for he was in in his office, in the midst of the very busy day before Christmas.

Presently his nephew lounged in.

"Hello, Sam," cried Marley; "Merry Christmas, old boy!"

"Much good it will do me," said Sam, giving his hand and smiling a sort of half-way smile.

"Nothing to do yet?"

"Not a thing. Business is awfully dull."

"It is rather so," said Marley. "I wish I could help you."

"I know you do, uncle, and I wish circumstances were so arranged that you could help me to work. If Rob Scratchit there would just happen upon something better to do, I could keep your books 100 per cent. better than he does, and do it for less money."

"I have no doubt of it, Sam, but I cannot turn a man with a family into the street, even to make room for you."

"I did not ask it, Uncle, only I was going to warn you that you lose money by Scratchit's stupidity and carelessness. I've been around the office a good deal, and I've seen how he does his work."

"I know he does not do well, Sam. I've spoken to him, but he does not improve."

"Well, uncle, few people would keep him under those circumstances. They would send him preaching for the good of the business. Now I'll tell you what I'll do, uncle, and I would not do it for any but you. Put Scratchet back at his trade and me at the books and give him my salary and me his. He'll have to work harder than he does now, but the books will be properly kept."

"Twouldn't do, 'twould never do, Sammy. Consider how his feelings would be hurt. You must look around a while longer, my boy. But always come to me when you are short of money. Don't stint yourself in the least."

"I don't want to live on you," said Sam, "give me a chance to earn my own living."

"It will come, it will come in time, my boy, and meanwhile, don't stint yourself or feel worried. I'll pay your board bill, draw on me for pocket money. Now what are you going to do to-morrow?"

"Stay at home; I've no money to waste merry-making."

"Don't do anything of the kind. Here, take this bill and spend it all—all mind you. Have the grandest jollification you ever had in your life, and if you wake up in the station house, you know who will go your bail."

"Well, uncle, I don't feel much like it, but I'll take the bill to oblige you."

"Do, and mind you spend it. Why, man alive, Christmas comes but once a year."

After Sam was gone, Marley hummed a merry tune over to himself, and looked so blissful that Rob Scratchit came in from the other room to proffer a request for an increase of salary.

"Hem! This is unexpected, Mr. Scratchit. It is not so very long since you had your last raise. Thanksgiving, wasn't it?"

"Yes, Mr. Marley, but I'm a poor man with a large family, and I find it hard to maintain them. The family seems to be growing bigger and bigger all the while."

"Not another addition, I hope, Mr. Scratchit. That was what you said last time."

"An addition, Mr. Marley, but not in the same way. My eldest son has married."

"Your eldest son married! Why, man, you're scarcely older than I am."

"True, but I married young, and Jimmy is barely 19. But when the boys and girls fall in love, Mr. Marley, it seems cruel to refuse them."

"It does; it does, indeed." Well, Scratchit, we'll see about it, and, meanwhile, give my respects to the two Mrs. Scratchits, and to your daughter, whom I have met, I think, and bid them all a merry Christmas from me. And, by the way, take this bill and get some presents for the young people. You can select better than I."

"Thank you, sir," said the book-keeper, and withdrew.

Marley was very sober for the rest of the afternoon. He pored over the books long and intently, only raising his head to mutter, "A little ahead of last year,—a little ahead," and again, "His eldest son married. Bless me, we are getting old."

When he went home to supper, he plucked up heart and appeared quite jovial. His landlady nearly laughed herself into a fit over his merry jests, and the other boarders were as well entertained as if they had been to the minstrels. And yet there was an undertone of sadness in his mirth, for he really began to feel old. When, late at night, he retired to his room he felt more inclined to sigh than to sigh than to laugh, but he stifled the feeling with a jest so etherial that your mind could never grasp, much less retain it, and laughed preposterously over it. Nay, he even tried to sing a song after he had gone to bed, and drawn the chill sheets about his shivering limbs, but there hung a heavy weight upon his heart which (or so it seemed) swung to and fro like a pendulum, always ticking to the same time and tune: "We're—growing—old! We're—growing—old!"

Thus it happened, probably, that the same rhythm crept into his dreams, and when he awoke—or seemed to awake—for he felt all the time that he was still dreaming—the weight was there, the rhythmic ticking was still audible, and its monotonous burden beat into his brain like the haunting memory of a funeral dirge.

But he struggled against it, cracked his jokes at the breakfast table, complimented the landlady till the good old creature actually blushed two shades for him and one for herself, and clapped his fellow-boarders on the shoulders as he bade them a merry Christmas. After that he went to church, and sang the carols with as much enthusiasm as if he had had a voice and a place in the choir, and yet all that time he felt as great a "disposition to cry" as ever did the valiant Sir Hugh Evans.

This duty done, he went to call on Mrs. and Miss Betterdazes, where he was quite as jolly, not to say clownish, much to the disgust of the old lady and not a little to the distress of the daughter, to whom he seemed unwarrantably frivolous. And he kept it up all the evening, too; but if you noticed, you would see that he never turned his head to look over his shoulder; never, that is, after the first horrified instant when, turning his eyes askance, he saw, standing behind his chair, Ebenezer Scrooge. It was Scrooge's face, beyond a doubt, wearing such a sober look,

THE WEEKLY BLADE.

TOLEDO BLADE COMPANY, Publishers.

TOLEDO, O., THURSDAY, DEC. 28, 1882.

OUR CLUB LIST.

We have made arrangements with the publishers enabling us to send the BLADE and either of the following publications for the prices annexed (postage prepaid):

WEEKLIES.	Their Price.	With Blade.
Christian at Work	$ 3 00	$ 3 75
Chimney Corner	4 00	4 50
Harper's Bazar	4 00	4 50
Harper's Weekly	4 00	4 50
New York Ledger	3 00	3 60
Prairie Farmer	2 00	2 50
Rural New Yorker	2 00	3 00
Scientific American	3 00	4 00
Waverly Magazine	5 00	5 00
Western Rural	2 00	2 50
Chicago Advance	2 50	3 50
Weekly Am. Bee Journal	2 00	3 00
MONTHLIES.		
Wide Awake (Juvenile)	2 50	3 25
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American Agriculturist	1 50	2 25
Ladies' Floral Cabinet	1 25	2 20
Phrenological Journal	2 00	2 80
Our Little Ones (Juvenile)	1 50	2 25
Andrews' Bazar	1 00	2 00
Arthurs' Home Magazine	2 00	2 75
Atlantic Monthly	4 00	4 60
Brainard's Musical Word	1 50	2 50
Leslie's Popular Monthly	3 00	3 75
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Harper's Monthly	4 00	4 50
Godey's Lady Book	2 00	2 75
Peterson's Magazine	2 00	2 75
The Century	4 00	4 60

In making this proposition we stipulate that we must receive at the SAME TIME one subscriber to the BLADE for each copy of any other publication ordered from the list. They need not both be sent to the same person, not even to the same Postoffice, and in renewing their subscriptions, old as well as new subscribers may avail themselves of the offer.

BOOKS! BOOKS!

It has been the Custom of the BLADE every Winter to offer a list of good standard books at very low prices, post-paid by mail. This season we have a large stock of miscellaneous books, which we have not space to enumerate by title.

The greatest bargain we have to offer for a single book, is "Bible Biography." (A full description advertised elsewhere.) This is a $3.00 subscription book, finely illustrated, containing some 600 pages, and which we mail post-paid for $1.25. An elegant book for a Christmas present.

Poems.—We have a large lot of standard Poems, such as Cowper, Rogers, Milton, Moore, etc., which we will send postpaid by mail at 60 cents. Retail price, $1.50. Upon receipt of 60 cents we will mail a copy of Standard Poems, although we will not guarantee to mail the title requested. We will send the title ordered if we have it, otherwise we will substitute another author or Merely remit 60 cts. for copy of Standard Poems.

Cloth-bound Novels.—Our stock of titles is so numerous that we cannot name them, but on receipt of 50 cents for a cloth-bound novel, we will mail postpaid a copy that can't help but give satisfaction, as the regular retail price of such as we have run from $1.75 to $2.00 per copy.

Nasby Pamphlets.—We have many inquiries for the popular pamphlets of Nasby. We have on hand a few copies of "Nasby as a Banker" and "Democratic John Bunyan." Price, 10 cents each, postpaid.

THE BLADE, Toledo, O.

PERSONS AND THINGS.

The President's son is in the class of '85 at Princeton.

John G. Whittier will be 75 years old on the 17th inst.

A new bridge has been built at Cork and named after Parnell.

Seven Blaine clubs were organized in Pennsylvania last week.

Jean Jules Clamageran, who has just been made Life Senator in France, is an American by birth, who rendered distinguished service during the Commune.

In Russia people use the thermometer of Teslie, an Englishman; in Germany that of Reaumur, a Frenchman; in France that of Celsius, a Swede, and in England and America that of Fahrenheit, a German.

The rate of vibration of the rattlesnake's tail has been determined by Dr. Ott to be 60 per second. The method of experiment was to attach a pen to the snake's rattles, the record being received on a revolving drum.

W. W. Butler, a convict in the Idaho Penitentiary, has invented a new barb wire fence, for which he has obtained a patent. He has been in the "pen" for eight years, during which time he has experimented on patents.

The C. M. Lampson, an enthusiastic hunter and explorer, is the fur monopolist of the world. By far the largest portion of all the fine furs worn in civilized countries are distributed through the Baronet's auction mart in London.

Sir George Bowyer says that the scarcity of good Italian singers is due to the freedom of the country, which lets people attend to money making and politics rather than art. He says that Pius IX. was one of the finest singers of his day.

"Never would call a boy of mine 'Alias,'" said Mr. Jones, "if I had a hundred to name. Men of that name is allus cuttin' up capers. Horse Alias Thompson, Alias Williams, Alias the Night-hawk—all been took up for stealin'."

The champion Postmaster lives at La Salle, Ill. His name is Corbees, and when the Democratic newspaper of the place pitched into him the other day he promptly destroyed the whole mail edition on the ground that it was "obscene literature."

A banquet is to be given in Washington on New Year's Day in honor of Frederick Douglass, in recognition of his long services in the interests of his race and humanity. Ex-Sen. Bruce is to preside, and the entertainment is designed to be not local, but national.

Shelby Cullom, the Governor of Illinois and probable Republican candidate for Senator, is a tall, somewhat Lincoln-like man, wary, considerate, wise, who has made such an acceptable Governor for two long terms that the Republican column remains unbroken in the midst of disasters elsewhere.

Van der Wyde, the Court photograper in England, is an American, who gained the rank of Colonel in the Army of the Potomac. He went to London in 1867, saw the necessity of having an artificial light for photographing in London fogs, invented one, and now has the first place in England in his profession, and is patronized by the Queen.

Judge Phelps, the new criminal magistrate of Baltimore, has already acquired the nickname of "Judge Terror." He holds court day and night and imposes the heaviest sentences which the law allows. For selling liquor on Sunday a luckless restaurant keeper last week had his license revoked, was fined $50 and costs, and was sent to jail for 10 days.

Pres. Arthur has a keen sense of appreciation. On being told that an alleged abstract of his message had been sent out of Washington in advance of the meeting of Congress, he asked a newspaper man whether he knew who had the abstract for sale. "The reason why I asked," said the President, "was that I haven't quite finished my message yet, and I thought that if I could purchase a complete copy in advance it might help me out on some points which I haven't yet settled to my satisfaction."

Edmund Yates seems to be crazy on the subject of tomatos. He proposes them now to his English readers as a seasoning for herrings. "A soup, a puree of leeks and potatoes, whose velvety smoothness has been toned up by a tomato or two cooked therein; imagine haricots, panaches, green or French beans and seed beans mixed, tossed in the pan with butter; this is the ordinary dish; but add only a tomato cut up into shreds, and the dish becomes extraordinary."

Serpa Pinto, the famous explorer, relates the following ludicrous incident of his travels in Africa: At a point on the Zambesi River he met Dr. Bradshaw, an English naturalist, who was reduced to the greatest misery, and had nothing but rags, and very few of those, to cover his nakedness. So meager was his wardrobe that he presented himself in his drawers to Serpa Pinto, to whom, with true British formality, he handed his card, engraved in London.

Sen. Lamar, who hitherto had adhered to the old Southern custom of wearing long hair, now appears in Washington with his locks closely shorn. The change was, however, an unintentional one. During a recent visit to St. Louis he entered a barber's shop to get shaved. That operation finished the sable artist said, "Senator, your hair needs cutting." "All right," said the other, who was so deep in meditation upon other subjects that he did not know what he had replied to, but when at last he rose and looked in the glass he knew, although he hardly knew himself.

For the Blade.

GOD BLESS THE LITTLE CHILDREN.

"And a Little Child Shall Lead Them."

BY WM. H. MIKER.

God bless all little children!
God keep them safe from harm!
And may their tottering footsteps
Be guided by His arm:
The steps of life grow brighter
When children walk along,
And there's no sweeter music
Than a baby's prattling tongue.

God bless all little children,
Whosoever they may be!
No home is poor that holds them,
None rich from whence they flee!
Life's crosses quickly vanish
In their sweet trust and love,
For baby hands bring in them
Full cups of heavenly love!

God keep all little children
Close in His tender care!
May His heart be ever open
To anxious parents' prayer;
And when Death's angels enter
To call these children home,
God pity weeping parents!
God comfort every one!

Written for the Blade.

A FINANCIAL EXPERIMENT.

BY BELLE LOUISE PIERCE.

It was a time of general dismalness,
"All day the low-hung clouds,"
—So low-hung that their fringed mantles seemed to sweep the distant hills—
"Had dropped their general fullness down."

And not only all day, but most of the preceeding night as well. Drip, drip, from the gray clouds; drip, drip, from the point of every drenched leaf and grass blade; drip, drip, from the eaves, while a miniature cataract poured with muffled roar from the brimming pipes into the cistern.

A few too adventurous chickens which, during a momentary lull, had left the henhouse, stood huddled together in disconsolate groups under the bushes, while down their backs, inclined planes, and from their tails the water trickled in murky rivulets. Somewhere on the premises a fortunate rooster, sheltered and dry, feeling comfortable, and, therefore, philanthropic, sent forth now and then a lusty note of condolence to his forlorn mates in the rain. A stray bird, ensconced beneath the dripping leaves of a maple, made his presence known by an occasional chirp and twitter.

A farm-house, low, broad and brown, stood among the hills. It had been painted once, but time deals with paint, as with other beauties of youth, yet age brings its own inevitable grace to all things terrestrial, and the charm of mellowed ripeness which clothed it now would be more pleasing to most eyes than the more pretentious glare of former days.

Mosses, green and gray, crept over the weather-stained boards; vines climbed up the sides, some sprays wandering over the slightly sloping roof, turning to embrace the rough stone chimney on their way, while others drooped in tangled wreaths from the eaves under which the swallows builded. Lofty trees spread their branches over it; softly rounded hills rose protectingly around it; it blended harmoniously with its surroundings; they seemed made each for the other, and fitted together like an acorn and its cup.

Within the back kitchen of the old house, work was in progress, which seemed in league with the weather to intensify the prevailing gloom; for it was Monday, this day of which we write, and Monday with the Stemsons, always meant washday. For the routine of household duties, as arranged by Miss Miranda (a maiden aunt with a small independent income, who made her home with the family,) was as unalterably fixed as the laws of the Medes and Persians; and weighty indeed must be the considerations which could induce her to postpone this weekly bugbear a day.

"It will clear off in time to dry the clothes. 'Begin before seven, stop before eleven,' is a middling sure rule to go by; so put on the wash water, Emily, and get out your tubs," she remarked, this same Monday, in her decisive way, after a critical survey of the clouds through her steel-bowed spectacles; and with the words she calmly sailed back into the comfortable sitting-room. And Aunt Miranda was household director, for Emily's mother was an invalid who seldom left her easy-chair.

Soon from boiler and tub arose the dense steam and peculiarly disagreeable odor of boiling soapsuds; while, with sleeves rolled up and red, half-parboiled hands, Emily rubbed the soiled linen till it was white as the soapy foam she was scattering right and left. She worked with an energy whose incentive was not altogether the desire to accomplish the task for her mind was busy with thoughts which lent nervous vigor to every motion. In truth, irrelevant as it may seem, a financial question was puckering the white brows and casting its shadow over the usually sunny face.

"I ought to do *something*—that's plain," she exclaimed at length, energetically; but *what*, that *isn't*—"

"Isn't what, Sis? What invisible audience are you addressing?" laughed a young man, opening the door just in time to catch her last words.

He was a tall, sunburned youth of 20, with a pleasing, manly bearing, even in his rough farm clothes.

The cloud fled from Emily's face at sight of this "big brother," whom whom she alternately petted and tyrannized over, after the fashion of girls in their teens, and laughing too, yet coloring a little, answered:

"Oh, Nat, it is that ever-vexatious money question I was worrying over. St. Paul may say that 'the love of money is the root of all evil.' I can't help thinking that the want of it is at the bottom of a good deal."

"Why, you mercenary little creature," he replied, drawing her down beside him; "what is the matter? What do you want a sixpence for? Perhaps I can supply you."

"Hush, you silly boy, what do you know of a young woman's aspirations? No, I'm not sighing for 'a blue ribbon to tie up my bonny brown hair.' It is not a little immediate spending money that I want; it is the means of making a sum that I can call my own. Indeed, I am old enough to maintain myself," she continued angrily, "and in our circumstances I ought to do so; this small farm does not furnish more than is needed for the support and education of the younger children. I want to do something for myself."

"Whew," Nat whistled softly, regarding her with a quizzical look of astonishment, "What an energetic little thing it is, to be sure. Now, sis, I am possessed of the idea that your sewing, housework, and the daily care and oversight of a 'big brother,' preparing his favorite dishes, darning his socks, laying the superlative degree of polish on his collars and cuffs, brushing his hat and coat, tying his necktie Saturday night and Sunday mornings, laughing with him when he is good-natured, and singing to him when he is cross, with sundry other little trifles, incident to the case of a fine looking specimen of those interesting animals called young men, is employment enough for a maiden of 17, but if you are suffering from ennui, and really pining for something more to do, why, I can exert myself to demand a little more attention."

"Never mind, my dear brother," she rejoined laughingly, "you do your whole duty in that respect, every day; but though very pleasant it is not decidedly profitable employment."

"No, I am afraid it isn't," he answered thoughtfully, "we boys are heedless creatures. Now smooth your brow, and thus far hear me sister. That long list of duties performed in my behalf, deserves more recompense, and thanks too, than I have ever given, I fear. So in the future, when you have any yearnings for those extra trifles, such as girls in their teens long for; a new bonnet of superfine quality, fancy ribbons, an occasional novel or book of poems, just deliciately hint the fact to your most obedient servant, Nathaniel Stemson, Esq. And now, little girl, never fret again about supporting yourself, for I am sure you earn your 'keep, as Uncle Jim says. You are busy from morning to night; here is this washing now that you are doing; now I would want a five for such a job as that."

"That is just it, Nat," she exclaimed, impetuously. "I feel ashamed to say so, but that, in truth, is half of what I was feeling vexed over. Life is the same dull routine, day after day, week after week, washing, ironing, cleaning and baking, things any Bridget could do as well as I. Oh! I grow so weery of it some days, that I long to fly from it all, and shut the kitchen door behind me forever," she exclaimed, vehemently, while her face flushed, and the tears sprang to her eyes.

Nat regarded her with genuine astonishment. He had never seen his active little sister discontented before, and he scarcely knew how to deal with the strange mood which had come over her.

"Now mind, Nat," she continued, "it is to you, only to you, that I would say such things. I am afraid it is wicked, and dear father and mother must not dream that I am not always as contented and happy as they think me. But I do so long for a change. What a blessedness it would be if by some strange metamorphose of our household arrangements a strong, willing Biddy could be introduced to our kitchen, then I, freed from the mere drudgery, could give my time to the lighter, pleasanter tasks of housekeeping. There would be a few hours each day for my pet books, drawing, and—"

"And what, Emily," said Nat encouragingly, as she paused.

"Oh, Nat, if only I could say, and music," she continued with a sudden burst of tears and confidence. "If there could be, not a piano, that is beyond my dreams, but a nice organ standing in the parlor, and I blessed with time to practice, I would be the happest of girls. But that, at least is an idle fancy," she added, sighing. "There will never be enough unappropriated capital in the family exchequer for such extravagance, and I can think of no way to earn any myself."

"It seems to me Emily Stemson," said a shrill voice, as the door opened half way, "it seems to me that that washing has been resting quite a spell, and its nigh a'most dinner time. G'long 'bout your work Nat, and you, Emily, spry around here and don't stop again till you're through."

Poor Emily cast a despairing glance at Nat, as he disappeared through the back-door, and resumed the distasteful washing.

A few days had passed, the bankrupt clouds had absconded, and the earth was radiant with fresh, sunlit greenness. Beside a tall hedge, whose shining leaves were not yet fully grown, Emily was standing; her late despondency had vanished with the clouds, and an expression of pleased interest lit the clear gray eyes as she thoughtfully toyed with a bunch of leaves.

"Well, Em," said Nat, coming to her side, "found the philosopher's stone yet?"

"I believe I can say Eureka! at last," she answered with a glowing face; "I fancy I have found a panacea for my trouble. Behold the leaves of healing!" and she playfully tossed the bunch she was holding to him, and darting into the house returned in an instant with a paper.

"There," said she, unfolding it with eager fingers, "I chanced to-day upon this number of the TOLEDO BLADE, and this, I think"—and she pointed to the heading of one of the articles—"I can make the key to unlock a treasure-house."

"The Culture of Silk Worms," he read, half wonderingly. "Enlighten me, Sis." And then she unfolded to him the plan which had shaped itself in her active brain.

"That is the work I am going to undertake," said she, decidedly. "Why not I, as well as another? They say it pays; and should it disappoint me, it can't be a very difficult or expensive experiment. I think it worth trying. 'No risk, no gain.' And to start on a small scale, as I wish to do, will not cost much except my time and the services which I know you will graciously place at my disposal."

"Whenever needed, sister mine."

"I am going to arrange the chamber attic for my work. It is roomy and airy enough, and has the northeast exposure, which they say is almost necessary to keep the room cool enough for the health of the worms during the hottest weather. You, Nat, can make me the shelves, shallow boxes, etc. There will be no lack of forage for my pets, I think," and she glanced at the glistening leaves of the long hedge row which stretched away, a green line over the fields.

"Well," exclaimed Nat, thoughtfully, "I say this is a go! But I don't understand what it is you are intending to feed the creature on. In early youth the idea was inculcated in my mind that mulberry trees were the only ones that bore silk gowns."

"That, Nathaniel, was a mistake in your youthful training. Our hedges of osage orange furnish food as well suited to the appetite of the most fastidious silk worm as the mulberry. Indeed, our common mulberry does not do at all. They require imported varieties."

"When are you going to start the thing going, Emily?"

"Why, at once. I've made up my mind to try, and there is no use in waiting. I am going to send for a book of directions and some eggs to-day, and they hatch in a week or less."

"How about handling the things?" asked Nat, mischievously; "as, I remember you have anything but a liking for the creeping things of earth. I have a keen recollection of the wild exclamations and frantic gestures of a certain young lady last evening when a little harmless terrified caterpillar dropped on her neck."

"Well," she answered bravely, though shuddering a little, "I don't know how much handling they will require. At any rate I will strive to take an interest in all the details of the work, as being my work, and, perhaps, those silken folds with which homely women hope to overcome their blemishes will do as much for their natural owners."

Very busy and happy was Emily during the weeks which followed, and very much interested were all the members of the family. Although father laughed a little at the idea of his little Emily trying to set up for herself, and Miss Miranda, affecting to be highly amused, ridiculed the whole scheme as absurd and unpracticable, nevertheless they watched the progress of the enterprise, with interest almost as keen as her own; and when, after days of careful watching, Emily announced that the eggs were begining to hatch, an eager procession, headed by Miss Miranda herself, mounted the narrow stairs and clustered around the boxes.

Emily had supplemented her lack of experience by careful reading, and all achievable suggestions had been carried out. All the wood used was well seasoned, as green was said to be injurious to the health of the worms. The floor was frequently sprinkled to keep the atmosphere moist. Nat was coaxed into putting up a little stove for cool days when artificial heat might be needed to keep the temperature at the desired point, from 75 to 80 degrees, though the boxes were so placed that the direct rays of the sun should not strike the eggs, which would kill the life principle within.

A proud and happy personage was their young proprietress as she surveyed her squirming brood. Curious and amusing, but not very attractive specimens of animal life, they were. They were of a dark slate color, and covered with long, stiff hairs, and Miss Miranda's "ugh!" of disgust was not surprising.

"They are not very winsome-looking pets, I acknowledge," laughed Emily; "but 'handsome is, that handsome does.' And think of their merits."

"Prospective merits, daughter. Don't count your chickens before they are hatched," said her father warningly.

"Bah!" exclaimed Miranda. "Emily will let her wits go wool gathering and forget to feed them half the time. If she succeeds in getting silk enough for a handkerchief from these creatures I miss my reckoning."

"Take care, Aunt Miranda," answered Emily, hiding her vexation under a laugh, "hasty prophets are sometimes false ones."

"Don't worry, Em," interposed kind-hearted Nat encouragingly, "these squirmers will spin your wedding dress yet, I havn't a doubt. But when are you going to feed them? Come, spread the banquet, I am curious to see the fellows eat."

"They should have been fed sooner," she answered, "but I had to wait for the leaves to dry; after this I will gather their breakfast in the evening before the dew falls."

"I suppose you call that the tablecloth," he remarked, as she spread squares of mosquito netting over the boxes, and sprinkled fresh, tender leaves and buds of the osage evenly over them.

The worms seemed to have entered the world with appetites fully developed, and it was an interesting sight to see them so readily make their way up through the meshes to feast on the juicy breakfast awaiting them. When all had thus mounted, she lifted the netting, worms and all, to a shelf by themselves.

"That is quite a convenient arrangement," remarked Nat, admiringly.

"Indeed it is," she answered. "I don't have to handle them at all, you see, but I shall have to invent some substitute for the time when they shall have outgrown the mosquito bar meshes. In France, where silk worm raising is a well established industry, they manufacture sheets of stiff paper, with perforations of different sizes, to suit worms of all ages."

Swiftly and happily, filled with cheerful labor which had all the charm of novelty, the weeks flew by. And during the long Summer days Emily found ample time to perform her household duties, and give her pets all the care that they required as well, though they were by no means dependent on her exclusively, for the children wishes for no pleasanter past-time than the gathering of a basket of leaves twice a day, and the mother, whose feeble health permitted her to do little else, found the sunny, airy room, the pleasantest place in the house in which to spend her mornings; and in the easy labor of caring for its novel occupants during all their interesting changes, found at once occupation and diversion.

After something more than a month had elapsed the worms, now grown to fat glossy creatures, with satiny skins of creamy hue, and silvery luster, began to evince their readiness to consummate the sole end of their existence. For some days previous, their appetites had been truly voracious; and the task of supplying them with leaves had tired the fickle industry of the children, and kept Emily busy. Meanwhile her young assistants found new employment, in culling oak-branches and preparing them for the worms to spin their cocoons in, and, one after another, they left their food, and, mounting the branches, fastened themselves to the twigs and commenced spinning their silken shrouds. Then, for the next week, to watch them at their work was a source of unfailing interest.

"Well, my energetic sister, how high have you builded your expectations on this enterprise—that is, how much do you expect to make?" queried Nat, one day, as Emily was inspecting the cocoons which hung so thickly on the boughs.

"How much do you reckon?" she answered, gayly. "Come, it is worth a guess."

"Let's see; 25, no, I'll say, 30 dollars. You seem so well pleased, 40, 50. Pshaw, Em. you'r expecting too much; I'm afraid you will be disappointed?" he said, warningly, with a gay laugh.

She shook her head at each successive guess.

"No, I think not," she answered; "though, at present, I know nothing except from others; but Major Rodman, and he is well-posted in such matters, tells me that, without doubt, I will realize as much as $75, perhaps more; in fact, he said he would not be surprised if I made $100, for I had a fine looking lot of cocoons."

"Hum," grunted Nat—"$75 or $100; well, Em., I congratulate you—you deserve it; but, it seems to me that you have struck a mighty easy way of making money. Here I, during these six weeks, have toiled and sweated through 14 hours a day, and haven't half that much to show for it."

"And it is all because I am a girl; girls have their eyes open. You would not have thought of such a thing, you dear old slow coach, yet you read the BLADE as much as I do. I am going to do more another year, I regard this as only a good beginning."

And so it proved, for the business grew upon her. Not only were the number of cccoons increased, but she retrenched the expenditures, and made the enterprise self-sustaining by raising her own eggs, or "seeds," as it is technically termed, and finding this an easy and profitable manner of augmenting the profits, entered into it more extensively, supplying demands from all parts of the country.

And now let me claim my privilege, and, skipping the intervening time, look in upon her after two years.

It is that pleasantest time of all the day, the after supper hour of one of the long evenings of a late autumn. The front room is bright with light and life. The fire's ruddy glow, and the lamps mild radiance falls over Emily's glossy brown head, and trim slender figure.

She is at her *organ*, for that fond dream has been realized, and now the nimble fingers whose skill has earned the pleasure, fill the room with soft rich melody. But music is not all they brought, for the blending lights show pleasing pictures on the walls, and graceful vases on the mantle. The center table, once so tidily barren, is in that state of luxuriant disorder—in which Emily delighted—with fresh papers and new books, while from among them gleamed a bit of bright worsted work, which will not lay idle long, for when Nat shall have finished cutting the leaves of the new magazine, Emily will take the waiting work and the low rocking chair, while Nat entertains them all from its bright pages. Meanwhile, from the kitchen issues music as cheerful though less melodious, to which heavy steps keep time as the supper things clatter and jingle in Bridget's brisk hands. And all this is what Emily's discontent brought her.

Solution for Determining the Hardness of Water.

The *Chemist and Druggist* mentions a new method of making a volumetric solution for determining the hardness of water, suggested by Mr. C. R. C. Tichborne, in a paper read at a meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference.

The writer proposes to prepare a definite oleate of soda, in place of the soap solution now employed. Oleic acid forms both a monobasic and a dibasic salt. Either will answer for the purpose.

The following is the process:

Five c. c. of oleic acid are measured with a pipette and 50 c. c. spirit added to it in a beaker; two drops of phenolphthalein solution are also added, and immediately a volumetric solution of soda is run in until a pink indication is produced. This indicates that the point of neutrality has just been passed. The result is a solution of a monobasic salt. A drop more of the volumetric solution of soda develops the pink to a magenta, but, as the process goes on the solution again becomes decolorized, indicating the formation of the basic salt. When half the second equivalent of soda has been added the solution begins to pectise, and when the process is complete the solution becomes a solid jelly. Whichever solution is made (the author prefers the latter, as it lathers more freely and is more permanent), the oleate of soda is then made up to the required measure by the addition of a mixture of equal parts of rectified spirit and distilled water.

The advantages claimed are that the soap solution may be made in five minutes, requires no titration against a standard water, and is more permanent than those made from ordinary soaps.

A Big Snowfall.

Wood River Times.

A gentleman who recently came down from Galena, states that 69 feet of snow fell at that place last season. The measurement was taken on a board, projecting from the roof of a shed. The snow on the board was brushed off every 12 hours. This allowed the falling snow to settle at least one-third before being brushed off. It is therefore probable that the total snowfall reached 90 feet.

Catarrh of the Bladder,

Stinging irritation, inflamation, all Kidney and Urinary Complaints, cured by "Buchupaiba." $1.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

A Further Examination Into the Claim of its Authorship for Mr. Jefferson.

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade:

Writing to Jefferson November 12, 1813, John Adams says: "In the Congress of 1774, there was not one member, except Patrick Henry, who appeared to me sensible of the precipice, or rather pinnacle, on which we stood, and had candor and courage enough to acknowledge it. America is in total ignorance, or under infinite deception concerning that assembly. To draw characters of them all would require a volume, and would now be considered a caricatured print. One-third Tories, another Whigs, and the rest Mongrels."

From this description by one who figured very prominently in its deliberations, we may infer that the Congress that managed the destiny of a people in this transition from subjects of a Crown to citizens of a Republic, was far from being a unanimous body in political sentiment. Indeed, so strong was yet the spirit of conservation or Toryism by which they were surrounded, and which permeated or formed a part of the body itself, that an early and important proceeding of the Congress was the passage of the following

RESOLUTION OF SECRECY:

Resolved, That every member of this Congress considers himself under the ties of virtue, honor and love of his country, not to divulge, directly or indirectly, any matter or thing agitated or debated in Congress, before the same shall have been determined, without leave of Congress; nor any matter or thing determined in Congress, which a majority of Congress shall order to be kept secret; and that if any member shall violate this agreement, he shall be expelled this Congress, and deemed an enemy to the liberty of America, and liable to be treated as such; and that every member signifies his consent to this agreement by signing the same.

"This resolution, as proposed, was thereupon passed, engrossed, and subscribed by all the delegates." (3, Amer. Archives, p. 1916.)*

Writing to John Adams, Aug. 10, 1815, Jefferson says: "On the subject of the Revolution, you ask Who shall write it? Who can write it? and who will ever be able to write it? Nobody, except merely its external facts; all its councils, designs and discussions having been conducted with closed doors, and no member having even made notes of them. Thence which to the life and soul of history, must forever be unknown." (Works, vol. 6, p. 488.

The secresy, so necessary to men who were periling their fortunes and their lives to secure the blessings of freedom and liberty for themselves and posterity, has deprived history of its most interesting features. The "Secret Journals of the Congress of the Confederation," published by Way & Gidson, in 1823, give us the substance, or external facts of Revolutionary history; but the details are forever lost, excepting what we may glean from the recollection of those who participated in them; and those recollections, held in abeyance through the turmoil and exciting events consequent to the establishing and perfecting a new government, are so diverse and conflicting, so tinged with adulatory panegyric, vituperative insolence, or parasitical hyperbole, as to leave the student, on interesting points of history, in such a maze of perplexity, doubt and conjecture, as would baffle Ariadne or any other myth or mortal to devise a satisfactory clue to the labyrinth. It is only when these recollections agree in their main points, or are supported by a collateral chain of circumstantial evidence, that they can be relied upon as the truth of history.

THE AUTHORSHIP OF THE DECLARATION.

As to the composition of the Declaration of Independence, the statements extant are many, diverse, and conflicting; but the one that appears to have the strongest support of convergent evidence is, that the members of the Committee appointed to prepare a declaration, instead of considering the one first named as Chairman, and instead of electing a Chairman, followed, it is surmised, the sage advice of Dr. Franklin, that each member draw up a document according to his own feelings and sentiments, and that they agree to adopt that which was the most congenial to the views of a majority of the Committee; and that on comparing the results, those of Jefferson, Adams and Franklin were formed into a whole, with that of Jefferson as the basis or main body. This version appears to be well supported by the testimony of Jefferson himself; for he says: "The draft, when completed by myself, with amendments by Dr. Franklin and Mr. Adams, in their own handwriting, is now (1823) in my possession, and a fair copy of this was reported to the Committee, passed by them without amendment, and then reported to Congress."

Writing to John Vaughn, Esq., September 26, 1825, Mr. Jefferson further says: "Whenever, in the course of the consultation, a copy became overcharged, and difficult to read with amendments, I copied it fair, and when that also was crowded with other amendments another fair copy was made, etc. These rough drafts I sent to distant friends who were anxious to know what was passing. But how many, and to whom, I do not recollect. Whether the paper sent to R. H. Lee was one of these, or whether, after the passage of the instrument, I made a copy for him, with the amendments of Congress, nay, I think, be known from the face of the paper." (Works, vol. 7, p. 460.)

THE FAC-SIMILE.

What purports to be a fac-simile of the draft, referred to by Mr. Jefferson as in his possession, is inserted in his autobiography, and the marginal notes—"Handwriting of Mr. Adams," "Hand-writing of Dr. Franklin," indicate the amendments; but from the similarity of hand-writing in the whole, the inference is unavoidable that the fac simile is of a copy rather than of the original. And there are other circumstantial evidences that the original draught or draughts are not in existence, and had not been preserved. But these circumstances do not alter the case, as under either circumstance, the draught, as adopted by the committee, was a joint production. Nor was this yet the end: for the document as reported to Congress was, from Monday, July 2d, to Thursday, July 4th, subjected to a tremendous ordeal in the debate in Congress, sitting in Committee of the Whole; and it was not until after many alterations and amendments, and more than one-fourth of it was expunged, that it was finally adopted.

Mr. Jefferson informs us that he took no part in the proceedings of Congress in the declaration, but that he was "a passive observer of the opinions of others." The "fair copy" of the document was in his handwriting, and being a young man at the time (33 years) he was sensitive to the very severe strictures to which the document was subjected. The following is what Mr. Jefferson says on this point:

MR. JEFFERSON'S TESTIMONY.

I was sitting by Dr. Franklin, who perceived that I winced under, and was not insensible to these mutilations, (of the document.) 'I have made it a rule,' said Dr. Franklin, 'whenever in my power, to avoid becoming a draftsman of papers to be reviewed by a public body. I took my lesson from an incident which I will relate to you. When I was a journeyman printer, one of my companions, an apprentice lad, having served out his time, was about to open shop for himself. His first concern was to have a handsome sign-board, with a proper inscription. He composed it in these words: 'John Thompson, hatter, *makes* and *sells* hats for ready money,' with the figure of a hat subjoined; but he thought he would submit it to his friends for their amendments. The first he showed it to thought the word *hatter* tautologous, because followed by the words 'makes hats,' which shows he was a hatter. It was struck out. The next observed that the word 'makes' might as well be omitted, because his customers would not care who made the hats. If good and to their mind, they would buy, by whomsoever made. He struck it out. A third thought the words 'for ready money' were useless, as it was not the custom of the place to sell on credit. Every one who purchased expected to pay. They were parted with, and the inscription now stood, 'John Thompson sells hats.' 'Sells hats!' says his next friend. 'Why nobody will expect you to give them away; what, then, is the use of the word?' It was stricken out, and hats followed it, the rather as there was one painted on the board. So the inscription was reduced ultimately to 'John Thompson' with the figure of a hat subjoined."

SUMMING UP.

But after all, divested of all useless and unnecessary panegyric and hyperbole, what of the composition of the Declaration of Independence, verbally considered? That circumstance, surely, was of far less merit and importance than the proposing and carrying it into effect. The agency of Mr. Jefferson in the latter sense was much less and weaker than many abler statesmen who had set the ball of revolution in motion while yet he was a schoolboy. Patrick Henry and many others were giants in political leadership as compared to Mr. Jefferson in Revolutionary days. The encomia heaped on the name and fame of Jefferson is wholly an afterthought, so far as it relates to his Revolutionary achievements.

I admire and venerate the genius and patriotism of Jefferson, and gladly place his fame in its proper niche among the sages, heros and patriots of 1776 in the garden of memory; but justice to others and the truth of history forbid that I should ascribe to him any undue credit for the Declaration that severed a people from the thraldom of monarchism.

John Adams, who "was the pillar of its support on the floor of Congress, its ablest advocate and defender against the multifarious assaults it encountered," says of the Declaration, that it was a commonplace compilation, the ideas and sentiments of which were hackneid in Congress during two years prior to its adoption. This, with permission of the BLADE, will be a subject of further comment. W. S. CLARKE.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 11, 1882.

*The necessity for this secresy is obvious when we consider that under the old Common Law of England it was maintained that words *set down in writing*, although not published, amounted to high treason, and under this construction, one Peachum, a clergyman, was condemned to death (but subsequently pardoned) for treasonable words in a sermon never preached; and Algernon Sidney was executed for some papers found in his closet.

NOTE.—In the last issue of the BLADE received (Nov. 30) I notice that a correspondent asks: "Where did the idea of the framing of the Constitution come to Jefferson?" I shall not be surprised to see ascribed to Jefferson the authorship of the decalogue and the proclamation of emancipation, or any other important event in the world's history. Great indeed, is the name of Jefferson! Must we have an American Jupiter upon whom to expend our surplus encomiums? If the answer to correspondent's question is correct, then my researches have been very faulty and to little purpose. But I shall decline to make any special research to find's Jefferson's association with the Federal Convention until I am better satisfied of his participation in it.

W. S. CLARKE.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 11, '82.

RECENT LITERATURE.

THE BUILDING OF THE NATION. By Charles Carleton Coffin. Published by Estes & Lauriat, Boston.

"The Building of the Nation," by Charles Carleton Coffin, follows naturally in the series of historical works for young readers which already contain such books as "The Boys of '76," and "Old Times in the Colonies." It brings the records of important events from the time of the Revolution down to the election of Lincoln and the beginning of the Civil War. The story is enlivened by spirited descriptions, by personal anecdotes, and by 600 or 700 illustrations.

POEMS. By John Ruskin. Edited by James Osborne Wright. Published by John Wiley & Sons, New York.

All Ruskin's verse was written during his earliest years, and but one edition of his collected poems before the present one was ever published. That was issued in 1850, but it was private, and the limited number of copies issued never got into the bookstores. Only two years ago a copy was sold by auction in London for 41 guineas. The present edition is very handsomely brought out, and, though the author's poetry is not so poetical as his prose, it possesses a certain charm partly due to itself and partly owing to association.

MILDRED'S MARRIED LIFE. A Sequel to Mildred and Elsie. By Martha Finley, author of the "Elsie Books," etc. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. One volume. Price, cloth, $1.25;

In these days of over-strained and questionable novels it is a pleasure to find such a simple and pure story as the above. Nor is there any sacrifice of power to make it thus. The volume is as interesting as it is moral, and the reader lays it down with a feeling of quiet joy and satisfaction.

SIX GIRLS. A Home Story, by Fannie Belle Ewing. Illustrated. Published by Estes & Lauriat, Boston. Price, cloth, $5.50.

A pleasant, helpful and hopeful little domestic story, in which the six sisters of a family figure as the leading characters. There is humor and pathos in the tale, the former predominating. It is essentially a girl's story, presenting, as it does, life from a girl's standpoint. There are a number of illustrations by F. T. Merrill.

GRANDMOTHER ELSIE: A Sequel to Elsie's Widowhood. By Martin Finley. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. Price, cloth, $1.25.

One of the "Elsie" series of books which have proved so acceptable to girls and boys in their teens.

PICTURESQUE JOURNEYS IN AMERICA OF the Junior United Tourist Club. Edited by the Rev. Edward T. Bromfield. Profusely illustrated. Published by R. Worthington, New York.

A very handsome quarto volume in illuminated cloth covers, entitled "Picturesque Journeys in America," has been issued by R. Worthington, New York. It is prepared for young people's reading by Rev. E. T. Bromfield, who seems to have an excellent idea of the literary needs of that class. The most beautiful and picturesque scenery in this country, from the shores of Maine to the wonder

Answers to Correspondents

We are obliged to remind our readers that there are certain classes of questions which we cannot undertake to answer, viz.:

1. Those not accompanied by the name of the writer. The name is not required for publication, but only as an evidence of go d faith. All letters not complying with this rule find their way at once to the waste basket.

2. Mathematical problems and questions in grammatical construction. We are willing to give all our readers an opportunity to ask and answer the former, but we have not the type necessary for publishing algebraic problems and so'utions.

3. Questions which in the judgment of the ed tor are not appropriate or proper in the columns of the BLADE. Hundreds of questions come to this department every week, and the editor must be allowed to exercise his discretion in making selections calculated to promote the general interest.

4. Inquiries as to the standing or reliability of individuals, firms or corporations doing a general business. The BLADE's endorsement is too valuable to be used indiscriminately, and it is not always possible for us to devote the time necessary to ascertain the standing of an individual or a firm located in a distant part of the country.

Correspondents whose inquiries are not answered within a reasonable time would do well to repeat them. If they still fail to receive an answer they are invited to believe that the questions remain unanswered for good and sufficient reasons.

We must request that subscribers will keep all communications for the business and editorial departments of the BLADE entirely separate and distinct, always upon a parate leaves. Questions for this department should never be written on the same leaf with letters containing subscriptions or orders for books. Letters intended for this department of the paper should be marked "Correspondents' Department."

Subscriber, Shingle House, Pa.: The concern is a humbug.

S. W. Z., Laconia, Ind.: Address E. F. Gamble, St. Louis, Mo.

T. W. H., LaPlata, Mo.: Send to W. H. Moore, Rockport, N. Y.; price $1.

T. & R., Isadora, Mo.: We do not know anything about the gentleman's religion or business.

J. H. K., Minnesota: Murat Halstead, editor of the Cincinnati Commercial, is President of the Western Associated Press.

W. H. S., Salem Center, Ind.: Address W. H. Moore, Rockport, N. Y. The price is $1.40 with chromos; $1.15 without.

F. M. Dorris, Corinth, Ill., wishes to correspond with some resident of Western Oregon in regard to cost of farming lands, salaries paid school teachers, climate, etc.

G. Hall, Spedwell, Kan., writes: "Won't some of your numerous correspondents give me some light as to the rules and regulations for forming a joint stock company for going into the cattle business—how it should be run, etc.?"

J. F. E., Coatsville, Ind.:

1. Can a ship loaded at Chicago pass from there to Liverpool? 2. Who is Tilloths?

1. Yes. 2. A young gentleman from Wisconsin who is seeing the world in company with Mr. Locke.

M. A. R., Spring Creek, Pa.:

Do you know of any book or circular giving the standing as to reliability of the different life insurance companies of Ohio? If there is such, where can they be obtained and what is the cost?

Address J. D. Herr, Insurance Department, Columbus, O.

G. W. H., Westfield, N. Y.:

Who built the Nickel Plate Road? (Ans.)—Why Vanderbilt it, of course.

Vanderbilt did not build it. He finds it cheaper to have others do the building and then "scoop" the property.

Walnut Leaf (no postoffice):

If the husband and children precede a wife in coming to the State of Ohio, and are resident there for a year, is the husband's owning property in Ohio, is the wife's residence established, she being a resident only a few months at present date?

Yes.

J. E., Spartansburg, Ind.:

1. Why are there eight feathers in the tail of the eagle of 1858, and only seven in others of same date of the silver dollar? 2. Is there any prominence?

1. The die was broken, and in making the new one the change was accidentally made. 2. No.

E. S., Grandfork, Ill.:

If not too long, will you please publish a list of those persons and companies to whom the Government has forbidden the delivery of registered letters and the paying of postoffice orders?

The list is too long. Ask your postmaster to let you look at the December number of the United States Postal Guide.

We have numerous requests to furnish statistics for debating societies, and some go so far as to ask us to prepare the argument for them. We have no time for such work. The BLADE, in the course of a year, furnishes information on every conceivable subject, and by making a scrapbook every subscriber can at all times be prepared with an abundance of material for debate.

J. M. C., Hurdland, Mo.:

1. Please explain the process of watering railroad shares or stocks. 2. Also the origin and principles involved in the railroad war now being waged in the West.

1. "Watering" railroad stock consists in the directory issuing an extra amount of bonds which they either appropriate or put on the market for sale, thus increasing the capital stock and depreciating its value. 2. The origin was in cutting rates; "principle" involved, "the almighty dollar."

Correspondent (no postoffice):

1. Please state what was the first invoice ever shipped over the Pacific Railroad? 2. Also were the Senators from Ohio in 1856, and which one tried to become President of the United States?

1. We have not been able to find any thing bearing on the subject. 2. Benjamin F. Wade and George E. Pugh. After the assassination of Lincoln Wade became President pro tem of the Senate and acting Vice President; he probably had Presidential aspirations.

E. F. R., Plumfield, Ill.:

Please tell me how to make violet writing ink.

For two gallons, heat two gills of alcohol in a water bath; add to the alcohol two ounces of violet aniline, and stir till dissolved; then add the mixture to two gallons of boiling water; mix well, and it is ready for use. Smaller quantities in proportion. This is the secret, from the sale of which, together with the products of manufacture, so many fortunes are said to have been made.

V. S., Latonia, Ky.:

1. In what country was the bayonet invented and where was it first used in battle?

2. It was invented in France (at or near Bayonne, whence the name,) about the year 1640. Originally the bayonet was fastened to a stick for insertion into the barrel of the musket; the socket bayonet, fastened by a tube passing around the barrel, was a later invention. The French did not do away entirely with the pike till 1703, nor the Russians till 1721. At the battle of Spire, in 1703, charges of infantry were first made with fixed bayonets.

A. M., French Creek, W. Va.:

Is there any reality in the story of Robinson Crusoe?

The most probable prototype of Defoe's hero was Peter Serrano, who in the 16th century was shipwrecked and lived alone for several years on an island in the Caribbean sea, near the mouth of the Orinico. His story is told at full length in Garcilaso's "History of Peru," a translation of which was published in London 20 years before "Robinson Crusoe" was written, and could hardly have escaped Defoe's notice, as the book attracted great attention, and Serrano's story is in the first chapter.

D. T. K., Golconda, Nev.:

Tell me how to conquer a balky horse, without using lash nor bit.

One method is to take him from the vehicle and whirl him rapidly around until he is giddy. It requires two men to accomplish this—one at the horse's tail. Don't let him step out; hold him to the smallest possible circle. One dose will often cure, and two doses are said to be final with the worst horse that ever refused to stir. Another plan is to fill his mouth with the dirt or gravel from the road, the philosophy of this being that it gives him something else to think about.

Sarah, Plum City, Wis.:

Please give me a cheap and simple recipe for cleaning furs.

For dark furs, warm a quantity of new bran in a pan, taking care that it does not burn, to prevent which it must be briskly stirred. When well warmed rub it thoroughly into the fur with the hand. Repeat this two or three times, then shake the fur and give it another sharp brushing until free from dust. For white furs, lay them on a table and rub well with bran made moist with warm water; rub until quite dry, and afterwards with dry bran. The wet bran should be put on with flannel; then dry with book muslin. Light furs, in addition to the above, should be well rubbed with magnesia or a piece of book muslin, after the bran process, against the way of the fur.

Turner, Wyandotte Co., Kan.:

1. Please tell me how gunpowder is made. 2. Is John L. Sullivan an American or an Irish man?

1. Pulverize, separately, 75 parts nitrate of potassa, 11 sulphur, and 13 freshly burned charcoal, and mix them with a little water, so as to form a cake when rolled out on a board. This is then dried on a clean sheet of paper placed in a warm situation, and afterwards crumbled into grains. It will form unglazed gunpowder. The pulverized ingredients, thoroughly mixed, without the addition of any water, constitutes what is known as meal powder; this may also be made by pulverizing grained gunpowder very cautiously in a mortar, or with a muller. 2. He was born in Ireland.

T. C. C., Moscow, Idaho:

What was the origin of the phrase that "nine tailors make a man?"

We find the following in an exchange, which, if it does not give the true origin, is a very plausible story: In the olden time, when a person died, the church bell tolled once for every year the departed had lived. But from the tolling of the bell no one could tell whether the deceased was a man or woman. To satisfy public curiosity, perhaps, on that subject, the sexton, after tolling the age, gave eight quick strokes of the bell if the deceased was a woman, and nine if it was a man, and these quick strokes at the end of the tolling were called "tailers," because they were at the tail-end of the whole business. Hence the proverb, "Nine tailers make a man."

A. P. H., Taylorsville, Ind.:

What was the origin of the curfew act now being enforced in Dublin?

The ringing of a bell as a signal to the inhabitants to extinguish their fires originated in England through William the Conqueror, who ordained under severe penalties, that, upon the ringing of a bell at 8 o'clock in the evening, all lights and fires should be put out, and every one should go to bed. At the time such precautions were necessary to prevent accidents, as hearths were then placed in the middle of the floor, under an opening in the roof to allow the smoke to escape. This hole was covered up when the family retired to bed. The law was repealed by Henry I., in 1100. The custom of ringing the curfew bell is still kept up in many places, though its original significance is lost.

M. F. T., Salem, Mo.:

1. Is a United States Senator a United States officer, and can he hold office in one State and live in another State? 2. What will kill angle (or fish) and earth worms in houseplants without hurting the plants? My plants are bothered with both, and I do not know what to do for them?

1. He must be an inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen. He must also be at least 30 years of age, and nine years a citizen of the United States. In the civil service controversy during the last campaign it was held by some that members of Congress were not "officers of the Government," and that the law forbidding such officers to solicit money from subordinates did not apply to them. Civil Service Reformers take the opposite view. 2. Securely cork up all the drainage holes in the pot, and then flood it for several hours with clear lime water.

P. M., Baldwin, Wis.:

Please give a short sketch of the life of James Fenimore Cooper, the novelist.

After passing through Yale College, he, in 1802, entered the navy as a midshipman, and for six years followed the sea, when he retired and married. He afterwards took up his abode in Cooperstown, a village founded by his father, on Lake Ostego, in Western New York. It was not, however, till 1821 that Cooper ventured to appear as an author. His first effort attracted little attention. His second production, "The Spy," was a decided success, and led the way to a long list of fiction. Many of his stories have been translated into both German and French, and it is also affirmed that some of them are to be found even in one or more of the Oriental tongues. He was born at Burlington, N. J., in 1789; died at Cooperstown, N. Y., in 1851.

A. C., Baxter Springs, Kans.:

1. How are cucumber pickles put up, so they may be ready for use from the barrel? 2. Where can I obtain the names of all the persons who sailed with Columbus on his four voyages to America? Who are the American Ministers to Italy, Spain, England, France and Germany? Give the address of each.

1. Pack the cucumbers in a jar or tub, pour a weak brine over them, and let it remain three days; pour off the brine, and pour on boiling hot vinegar enough to cover the pickles, and let them stand 24 hours; reboil the vinegar and pour on as before; do this three times, letting the pickles stand 24 hours each time; then throw this pickle away and add enough fresh vinegar to cover the cucumbers. Add a small lump of alum to a gallon of pickle; half pound of sugar and spices to taste; bring to a boil, skim, and then turn upon the pickles while hot. Let them stand, well covered, for 10 days, and they are ready for use. 2. Cannot say. 3. Italy, George P. Marsh, Rome; Spain, Hannibal Hamlin, Madrid; England, James Russell Lowell, London; France, Levi P. Morton, Paris; Germany, A. A. Sargent, Berlin.

B., Ridge Hill, Mass.:

1. Members of Congress being paid an annual salary, does the expenses of a session come any higher, whether it be a long or short one? 2. What does "hear, hear," in English public speaking signify? 3. Is it proper, as is the custom of all writers in speaking of districts, or counties in Ireland, to say County Galway, or County Cork? 4. What moral or legal right has our country, or any European country, to interpose with the cutting of the Panama Canal any more than any foreign power could have in meddling with a canal or river in our own country, even though it should reach from ocean to ocean? Does not every nation control its own waterways?

1. So far as the salaries of members is concerned the expense is the same; but there are numerous employes who only receive pay while Congress is in session; the cost of printing the windy debates alone amounts to a considerable item. 2. Approval of a point made or sentiment expressed. 3. There is nothing improper in the custom. 4. There are treaties in force between the different countries in which this subject is embraced. The law of self preservation applies, and each country interested professes to see danger unless it has a voice in the control of the canal.

D. L. C., Farina, Ill.:

Can you give me the modus operandi of nickel plating?

A method for plating various metals with nickel, without the aid of a battery, devised by Prof. Stolba, is as follows: In the plating vessel, which may be of porcelain, though the author prefers copper, is placed a concentrated solution of zinc chloride, which is then diluted with from one to two volumes of water, and heated to boiling. If any precipitate separates, it is to be redissolved by adding a few drops of hydrochloric acid. As much powdered zinc as can be taken on the point of a knife is thrown in, by which the vessel becomes covered internally with a coating of zinc. The nickel salt (either the chloride or sulphate may be used) is then added until the liquid is distinctly green; and the articles to be plated, previously thoroughly cleaned, are introduced, together with some zinc fragments. The boiling is continued for 15 minutes, when the coating of nickel is completed, and the process is finished. The articles are well washed with water and cleaned with chalk. If a thicker coating be desired, the operation may be repeated. There are numerous processes, some of which are no doubt patented.

L. L. N., Werley, Wis.:

1. What was the date of Josephus' writings? 2. Are they considered to be authentic? 3. What is the exact height of the Washington monument? 4. Why is the apocrypha not published in general connection with the Bible? 5. What is the meaning of the word gallinaufry?

1. He was born about A. D. 37; died about 100. 2. Yes. An imitation of Josephus' histories, in excellent Hebrew, but containing many legendary and fabulous narratives, was composed in the middle ages, and has often been published under the title of "Book of Josipon." 3. About 285 feet. 4. The Christian Church has fluctuated in its acknowledgment and use of these writings. The Greek Church (350 A. D.) pronounced decidedly against them, excluding them from the canon; the Latin Church, on the contrary, has always assigned them, at least since 397, a high place, as worthy of reverence and esteem, without declaring them to be of equal authority with the other scriptures; at the Reformation the Protestants generally rejected them. They are not considered of very great importance by critics. They have chiefly a historical value, throwing some light on the religious condition of the Jews, from the time when the Old Testament ceases to be our guide to the Christian era. 5. A hash of various kinds of meats.

M. S. O., Lathrop, Cal.:

What were the important discoveries made by Dr. Beaumont regarding the laws of digestion?

Dr. Beaumont, who was a surgeon in the United States army, was stationed at Michilimackinac, Mich., in 1822. On June 6 St. Martin, a young man 18 years of age, was accidentally shot, receiving the whole charge of a musket in his left side, which carried with it portions of his clothing, fractured two ribs, lacerated the lungs, and entered the stomach. Dr Beaumont restored him in a year to good health, with his former strength and spirits, though the aperture in his body was never closed. In 1825 Dr. Beaumont commenced a series of experiments upon the stomach of St. Martin, studying its operations, secretions, the action of the gastric juices, etc. These experiments he renewed at various intervals, his patient during so many years presenting the remarkable spectacle of a man enjoying good health, appetite and spirits, with an aperture opening into his stomach through which the whole action of the organ might be observed. He was the first who actually obtained the gastric juice in the human subject, and demonstrated beyond a doubt its chemical properties and digestive powers, and showed that it had the power, outside the body, at proper temperatures, of liquefying and dissolving various articles of food.

Z. C., Bryan, O.:

1. Will you be so kind as to tell me through this department what the present laws of Ohio are in regard to the husband's right and interest in his wife's personal property and real estate that she owned previous to her marriage with him, and also that which has fallen to her through relatives since her marriage? 2. Can a husband and wife lawfully sign off their right to each other's property without selling their real estate?

1. A married woman can only sell or mortgage real estate, in her own name, under seal and by her husband joining in the conveyance. All real and personal property of a married woman, acquired before or after marriage, remains, with the rents, income and profits thereof, her separate property and under her sole control, and is not liable to be taken by any process of law for the debts of her husband, unless in case of personal property, it is reduced to his actual possession with her assent. Her contracts for labor and materials in improving, repairing or cultivating real estate are valid. She can lease the same for a period not exceeding three years. A woman arrives at legal age at 18 years. The widow is entitled to dower in all the real estate of her husband owned during coverture, and at the time of his decease. A personal judgment cannot be recovered or enforced against her, but a suit in equity can be enforced to subject her property to payment of her debts if she charged her separate property for payment of the same. 2. Husband and wife cannot convey directly to the other though under very peculiar circumstances such conveyances have been upheld in equity because of the great wrong or hardship which would otherwise result. The husband and wife can together convey to a trustee for the benefit of the one to the exclusion of any claim of the other to the property. Husband and wife can, and often do, convey to a third party, who then conveys to one or the other as desired, but in such case an estate by courtesy or dower attaches as the case may be.

D. T., K., St. Clairsville, Pa.:

What is the Court of Queen's Bench, why so called, and what class of cases does it deal with?

It is a Court of record, and the Supreme Court of Common law in England, consisting of a Chief Justice and four Justices, who are by their office the sovereign conservators of the peace and supreme coroners of the land. The Sovereign himself used to sit at this Court, and is still supposed to do so. In the reign of a King it is called the King's Bench, and during the protectorate of Cromwell was styled the Upper Bench. Yet the Sovereign did not, neither by law is he empowered to, determine any cause or motion but by the mouth of his Judges, to whom he hath committed his whole judicial authority. The jurisdiction of this Court is very high and transcendent. It keeps all inferior jurisdictions within the bounds of their authority, and may either remove their proceedings, to be determined here, or prohibit their progress below. It superintends all civil operations in the kingdom. It commands Magistastes and others to do what their duty requires in every case where there is no other specific remedy. It protects the liberty of the subject by speedy and summary interposition. It takes cognizance both of criminal and civil causes, the former on what is called the Crown side, or in the Crown office, the latter on the plea side of the Court. On the Crown side, it takes cognizance of all criminal cases, from treason down to the most trivial misdemeanor or breach of the peace. Into this Court indictments from all inferior Courts may be removed by writ of certiorari, and the manner of trial at this Court is either at bar (which rarely happens) or at *misi prius*. On the plea side, or civil branch, it enjoys a general jurisdiction and and cognizance over all actions between subject and subject, those of the real class only excepted, which are entertained by the Court of Common Pleas. It does not meddle, however, with matters of revenue, which belong to the Court of Exchequer. It is one of the three Courts called the Superior Courts, or Courts at Westminster, the other two being the Courts of Common Pleas and Exchequer. A writ of error lies from this Court to the Exchequer Chamber.

C. K., Quincy, Ill.:

You would oblige me very much by telling me something about brass casting. How must the mould be prepared? Is there anything to be added if you remelt old brass? How can you make the metal flow readily?

Brass is usually made by placing the copper and zinc in alternate layers in fire-clay or graphite crucibles, and smelting them under a thick layer of charcoal. When the fusion is complete the alloy is cast into granite moulds luted with clay. The best proportions to make fine brass are two equivalents of copper and one equivalent of zinc; or in 100 parts, 66.11 of copper to 33.89 of zinc. The usual practice is to mix two parts of copper, by weight, with one of zinc. In the following table of the composition of various alloys of copper and zinc used in the arts, taken from Watts's "Dictionary of Chemistry," it will be observed that some specimens contain small portions of tin and lead, in some cases enough of the former to approach the character of bronze:

ALLOYS.	Copper.	Zinc.	Tin.	Lead.
English brass	76.99	20.26	0.17	0.28
Brass from Augsburg	71.89	27.63	0.85	.....
" " Romilly	70.10	29.90	.....	.....
Ship nails—bad	59.79	41.18	.....	4.72
" good	63.29	34.42	2.64	8.69
English tombac	86.38	13.61	.....	.....
German "	84.00	15.50	.....	.....
Coin of Titus Claudius	81.40	18.60	.....	.....
" " Nero, A. D. 60	81.07	17.81	1.12	1.05
" " Titus, A. D. 79	83.04	15.84	.....	.....
Antique bracelet, Naumburg	83.08	13.88	1.54	.....
Antique chain, Ronneburg	82.50	17.50	.....	.....
Statue of Louis XIV	91.45	5.83	1.70	1.37
" Henry IV	86.65	5.70	4.30	3.48
" Louis XV	82.46	10.30	4.10	.....
" Napoleon	75.00	20.00	3.00	2.00

If copper sheets are exposed at a red heat heat to the vapors of zinc, they are completely penetrated by them and converted to brass. Lyons gold lace is made by thus exposing copper rods to the vapor of zinc until the surface is converted to brass, and then drawing them out into wire. If a copper coin is placed in a crucible above a mixture of zinc oxide and charcoal, and heated, it will become brass without obliteration of the device. The larger the proportion of copper the darker the color, the greater the density, and, to a certain extent, the toughness of the alloy. Zinc lessens the weight and color; tin gives it hardness and grain; and lead toughens it and renders it fitter for working. Sal-enixum (the refuse from aquafortis), to be obtained at most of the chemical works at a trifling cost, is strongly recommended as a general flux for copper foundings, particularly where large masses of copper have to be melted prior to adding the tin and zinc. This, with charcoal, surpasses everything else. Borax, tartar, nitre, sal-ammoniac, common salt, limestone, glass, fluor-shar, resin, and several other substances are used as fluxes in fusing metals and soldering.

Information Wanted.

Mrs. W. D. Miller (no postoffice) wants address of Ferris Dyer.

William Le Mahieu (no postoffice) wants address of his brother Isaac.

G. W. Bennett, Rome, N. Y., wants address of George Henyck, Co. M, 15th N. Y. Cav.

Rev. S. A. Justice, Evansport, O., wants address of Lieut. D. W. Payne, Co. I, 125th O. V. I.

M. M. Stanley, Kingsville, Kan., wants address of J. A. Keller, W. G. Lamb and George Cantner, 94th Ind. Bat.

M. L. Richmond, Neosho Rapids, Kans., wants address of Dr. Franklin, in charge of Mound City Hospital.

John Karus, Lawler, Ia., wants information of his son, aged about 19, supposed to be with Cooper & Jackson's circus.

John M. Baker, Wellston, Jackson Co., O., would be pleased to hear from any who were formerly members of Co. K, 1st O. V. H. A.

Andrew Sturts, Greenup, Ill., wants addresses of Capt. E. B. Blakeslee, Co. A, 6th Regt., U. S. V. V., or Lieut. Clark of the same company.

Nelson Blake, West Menton, Westmoreland Co., Pa., would like to have the address of his brother, F. Blake; last heard from in Baltimore.

Miss Minnie Wright, Pleasant Ridge, Ind., wants address of D. M. Wright or any member of his family; lived in LaClede Co., Mo., during the war.

C. B. Castelo, Toledo, Ill., wants to hear from the following old prison comrades: B. F. Wade, 54th O. V. I., Frank Clark and John Goodeth, Co. D, 5th Mich. Cav.

Delayed Subscriptions.

It sometimes happens that persons order the BLADE mailed to them and fail to receive after a reasonable time has elapsed. Why this is will readily be seen from the following list of persons sending money for the BLADE and failing either to sign their names or give their address:

Letter containing 20c, signed by Andrew Cahle, no postoffice, County or State.

Letter containing $3 for 11 names, signed J. Preston, no postoffice, County or State.

Letter containing 10c, signed A. Davis, no postoffice, County or State.

Letter dated at Flat Rock, no County or State, containing 36c, to pay for BLADE for B. Moor, signed Nicholas Auer.

Letter containing 30c, no postoffice, County or state, signed Dixon Bartley.

It Joseph Barnhart will give his full postoffice address his complaint will be looked up.

If C. Harding, of Ridgeville, will give his full address his complaint will be looked up.

Letter containing 15c; wants Blade commencing November 23; no name or address.

Letter containing $1, postmarked Schell City, Mo., no name or address.

Letter containing $1.25, postmarked Virginia City, Nev., no name or address.

If T. C. S. Lock will give his address his complaint will be looked into.

Letter containing $1, signed Wm. P. Palmer, box 104, no address.

Letter containing $1, dated at Greene, no County or State, and no signature.

If A. D. Faulkner, per H. D. Drake, P. M., will give his full address the matter will be looked into.

If J. R. Cromer will give his full address his complaint will be attended to.

If John Bushford will give us his address everything will be made right.

Letter containing $2, dated at Parkville Station, no County or State, signed by J. A. Ream.

Letter containing $1.10, no address, signed John R. Grimes.

Letter containing $1, dated at Litchfield, no County or State, signed by H. A. Hunt.

Letter containing $1, signed John Gillman, no address.

Letter containing $2 for Blades for J. Stevens and Wm. Southerland, signed J. W. Wallace, no address.

If W. E. Walls and P. L. Doolittle will give their address the complaint will be looked into.

The Jeannette Expedition—Why the Dogs Were Killed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Prof. Newcomb, naturalist of the Jeannettee expedition, referring to the statement of a Russian officer to the effect that the death of Capt. De-Long and party was due to killing their dogs and their neglect to carry fowling pieces, says that it was a question of stowage room and of provisions for either dogs or men. Naturally the men were first considered. As to firearms, I would say that besides Remington and Winchester rifles, each officer, excepting myself, had a Remington breech loading shot-gun, some of them fitted with auxiliary rifle barreis, and more than once shot birds enough for the whole ship's company.

Noros says there was no room for them all so he selected 10 of the best and the rest were killed. The 10 saved were distributed in three boats, but we couldn't keep them there. They would jump on the ice and drift off. We would try to coax them back, but it was no use.

Melville says the Russian officer "is talking about something he doesn't know anything about. He is talking about a country he was never in, and a land of which he knows nothing."

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewas

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Commissioner Price, of the Indian Bureau, has drafted the executive order setting apart for occupation by the Turtle Mountain band of Chippewas a tract of territory in Rolette County, D. T., 40 miles by 24 miles in extent. The tract is near the Canadian line. The executive order has not yet been signed by the President. It is the distinct understanding with the Indians that this country is set apart for them only temporarily, and that as soon as they select their homesteads, which are to be within its limits, the remainder of the land will be subject to entry by the public. It is also the understanding that some one will be sent out by the department in the Spring to assist them in making their entries and getting settled. The clause in the Indian appropriation bill giving these Indians $10,000 to aid them in securing their homesteads was passed by the Senate. Little Shell and his band here were also given $1,000 in this bill to defray their expenses while here and on their journey back. As they came without permission, the Department was not disposed to allow them for expenses on the trip, but it is supposed that the $1,000 will cover the expenses of the entire journey.

Professional Female Pickpocket.

BUFFALO, Dec. 20.—Ellen Griffin was arraigned in the Police Court yesterday on the charge of grand larceny in the second degree. It was proven that Mrs. Minnie Volz, living at the corner of Massachusetts and Chenango streets, alighted from a sleigh in front of Schlund & Dolls, on Main street, Saturday morning, and in making her way through the crowd of foot passengers to the store brushed against the prisoner and an accompanying female. A moment after she discovered her pocketbook, containing $65, had been taken from her cloak pocket. The two women were seen hurrying across the street. An officer near by was notified and overhauled the prisoner just as she dropped the pocketbook on the sidewalk. The other escaped. Justice King held the woman for trial in a higher court and sent her to jail. She is believed to be a professional female pickpocket. She is about 35 years old.

Gas and Powder Explosions.

BOSTON, Dec. 19.—An explosion of gas caused fire in the five-story brick building at New Washington street and Cornhill, occupied by John P. Lovell & Sons, dealers in fire arms, powder and sporting goods. A series of small explosions of cartridges, etc., followed, and in a short time the building was ablaze in every part. Warren Lovell, one of the firm, and Oscar Peavey, watchman, were badly burned about the head, throat and arms. Lovell had $125,000 worth of stock in the building, of which he occupied the portion facing the square. He has an insurance of $70,000. The building was probably damaged $10,000. As soon as known where the fire was, three alarms were sent out, bringing a large force of firemen and apparatus to the scene. Co. 1 turned fusilades of cartridges stampeded the crowd. The firemen removed a large can of powder. This fire, which looked so threatening at first, began and ended in an hour.

British Bark Burned at Sea.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20.—The ship St. Nicholas arrived to-day from New York, having on board Capt. Doughty and a portion of the crew of the British bark Lennox. The St. Nicholas reports that on October 17 she fell in with the Lennox, from Glasgow, with coal for San Francisco. The crew were discharging the cargo from the main hatch and sending down water by means of the donkey engine and buckets. Dense volumes of smoke were rising from the main hatch. At 7 o'clock flames rushed through the main hatch ascending to the main yard. At 2 o'clock next morning the captain and crew, 25 in number, abandoned the ship and boarded the St. Nicholas. About daylight they sighted the British bark Hindostan, from Liverpool for Valparaiso, and transferred 10 men to her.

A Claim Agent in Trouble.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—A requisition arrived here to-day from Gov. Luke P. Blackburn, of Kentucky, for Gen. Nathan Ward Fitzgerald, the well-known pension and claim agent. With the requisition was a warrant made by Wm. Glenn, of Kenton County, charging that on September 25, 1878, Gen. Fitzgerald put the affiant's name on the back of a note for $192. Mr. Fitzgerald gave his personal recognizance for his appearance before the Chief Justice.

This is the claim agent who a short time ago felt aggrieved, because of a Washington dispatch with reference to a circular to deserters, in which he offered to get them an honorable discharge for $5 in advance.

Investigating Smuggling.

BUFFALO, Dec. 20.—Special Treasury Agent A. P. Heichhold is in the City, and yesterday began an investigation of the smuggling business. The official states the belief that there is some smuggling across Niagara River, but not enough to warrant an increase of the detective force. He will inquire particularly into the butter business, the allegation being that the illicit trade in this product has become almost an open one. Mr. Heichhold's instructions are to spare neither time nor expense in making a thorough investigation. When the first newspaper article on this subject appeared a week ago the authorities at Washington pronounced it a hoax, but the subsequent conclusion was that an invest igation was necessary.

Sad Accident.

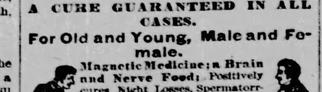
NOKOMIS, Ill., Dec. 19.—Husselman, a young man 17 years old, was instantly killed near Irving, in this County, to-day by the accidental discharge of a gun in the hands of his brother. The boys were after a rabbit, and in passing the gun through a beige fence the discharge blew out the brains of the one who was reaching for the muzzle of the gun.

Rolling Mills Closed.

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—The North Chicago Rolling Mills, partially closed for some time, shut up all departments to-day. The reason given is inability to get coke for use in furnaces. The proprietors state the mills will probably resume work early in January.

A CURE GUARANTEED IN ALL CASES.

For Old and Young, Male and Female.



Magnetic Medicine; a Brain and Nerve Food; Positively cures Night Losses, Spermatorrhœa, Impotency, Nervous Debility, Leucorrhœa, Barrenness and all (BEFORE.) Sexual Weaknesses in either sex (AFTER.) It is Unfailing and Positive Cure, tones up the debilitated system, arrests all involuntary discharges, removes mental gloom and despondency, and restores wonderful power to the weakened organs. ☞ With each order for TWELVE packages, accompanied with five dollars, we will send our GUARANTEE to refund the money if the treatment does not effect a cure. It is the Cheapest and Best Medicine in the market. Full particulars in pamphlet, which we mail free to any address. Sold by all Druggists; one package $1 or six for $2.50, or sent by mail on receipt of price, by addressing the MAGNETIC MEDICINE CO., DETROIT, MICH.
Sold by I. N. REED, Toledo.

HERR MOST.

Schwab, the German Socialist of New York, Gives the Program of Most's Movements.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—That a correct idea might be obtained regarding Herr Most's plans and his motive for coming to this country, a reporter of the World called upon Justus H. Schwab, the great leader of the German Socialists in America, at his saloon yesterday. Schwab was found surrounded by friends, to whom he was conversing in German with much animation, and when informed by the reporter that he should like to see him alone he replied brusquely that he kept nothing from his comrades, and whatever was said to him must be spoken in their hearing. The reporter then inquired regarding Herr Most's future movements, and in reply Schwab said: "On Thursday or Friday, at the latest, Herr Most will leave this city for Chicago, where he will remain until after New Year's. On Sunday night a public parade will take place there in his honor, in which all of the armed labor organizations of the city will participate."

"With arms?" asked the reporter.

"Yes! With arms," said Mr. Schwab, sternly. "Why not with arms? From Chicago," continued Mr. Schwab, "he will go to Milwaukee and St. Louis, and then back to Louisville, Cincinnati, Salineville, Cleveland, Buffalo, Niagara, Pittsburg, Allegheny, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, where he is to be received by Pres. Arthur, and again to New York, whence he will pay visits to all the large industrial centers of the East.

"You must understand this is a tour of provocation, in the course of which our distinguished guest will make appeals to the people. He will go alone, and wherever he stops will be entertained by our friends. He will return to England in about four months, but not as Herr Most. Do you understand me? He will go incognito. The English Parliament passed a law last Summer especially directed against him, which provides that all foreigners suspected of being dangerous to the institutions of Great Britain can be banished without any form of legal proceedings. He is connected with the Freiheit merely as an editor and constant contributor, but has little to do with its publication."

Herr Most was closeted last night till a late hour with the Executive Committee of the Socialist party.

EARTHQUAKE.

A Severe Shock in New Hampshire—People Panic-Stricken.

CONCORD, Dec. 19.—At 5:24 this evening one of the severest earthquake shocks ever felt here occurred. The shock was like a heavy explosion and shook the buildings, from which the people rushed into the streets. In one building the concussion was sufficient to extinguish the gas. Inside buildings the shock was like that of some heavy object falling, seeming to be above rather than below. It evidently traveled east and west, and was felt in Pittsfield some four minutes later than here. It was also felt at Great Falls, Manchester and other places. The shock lasted about eight or 10 seconds.

DOVER, Dec. 19.—About 5:45 P. M, a slight but very perceptible shock of earthquake was felt. The disturbance lasted 10 seconds, occasioning alarm among the people. The shock was accompanied by a rumbling noise, and was felt in Rollings-ford, Rochester and other towns. People rushed out of their houses much bewildered.

CONTOOCOOK, Dec. 19.—The heaviest earthquake for 10 years occurred at 5:20 P. M. It lasted for several seconds.

Old Enough to Know Better.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Thursday afternoon Alfred Clock, an old and respected citizen residing at 539 Madison avenue, was accosted by a well-dressed stranger who pretended to know his family. Clock was induced to enter a house with the stranger, and the bunco game played on Charles Francis Adams was introduced. Of course Clock plaid, and as a result lost $50 in cash. He continued playing and drew checks for $128, $200, $700 and, finally, $6,000. It being suggested to him that if he drew $1,500 from the Fifth Avenue Bank he might regain the money lost, he assented, and, in company with one of the sharpers, went to the bank in a hack and drew the money. When he returned the $1,500 was taken from him and he was told that everything was settled. He informed his family, who put the police on the case. From the description furnished by Clock the police arrested William Edwards, Eighth avenue and Fifty-seventh street. He was identified as one of the party of swindlers. Clock was unable to locate the house in which he was swindled. He is 70 years old.

THE BILIOUS,

dyspeptic or constipated, should address, with two stamps and history of case for pamphlet, WORLD'S DISPENSARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, Buffalo, N. Y.

Colorado Politics.

DENVER, Dec. 19.—Ex-Sen. Chaffee arrived from New York yesterday, and opened up the Senatorial fight. Tabor, Bowen and Hamilton are all quartered at the same hotel. Gov. Pitkin has returned from California, and to-day commenced to marshal his forces in earnest. For the next two weeks the contest will be bitter, and money will be thrown about on all sides. It seems to be the purpose of the supporters of the several candidates to take all the money they can get from the opponents of their favorites, but to sell no votes. Anything to defeat Pitkin seems to be the cry among the candidates. The secret of Belford's prolonged stay has to-day leaked out. It is announced that he is also a candidate for the Senatorship, and he does not deny that he hopes to sneak in between the combatants.

Mrs. Labouchere Heard From.

RICHMOND, Dec. 21.—A suit has been entered in the Chancery Court of Richmond by Mrs. Henrietta Pigeon, who sues by her next friend, J. Carrington, for divorce from her husband, Richard Pigeon. Mrs. Pigon alleges she was married July 2, 1864, in London; shortly afterwards they came to the United States and lived in various parts of the country. More than five years ago her husband deserted her and their child and has not contributed to their support since. It is rumored Mrs. Pigeon is none other than Mrs. Labouchere, former companion of Mrs. Langtry. The case will come up at the February term of the Chancery Court.

The Scovilles.

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—The case of Mrs. Scoville, adjudged insane recently and then granted a new trial, has been stricken from the docket by agreement. It is reported the unhappy couple are reunited, and it is hoped this will end domestic troubles of the Scovilles in courts

New Pension Bill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The Mexican service bill agreed upon by the House Pension Committee gives $8 a month to soldiers of the Mexican, Black Hawk and Florida wars, who served not less than 30 days, and also to the widows of the same.

Coughs, BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES are used with advantage to alleviate Coughs, Sore Throat, Hoarseness and Bronchial Affections. Price 25 cents a box.

After the Telegraph Companies.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—A bill was introduced in the House to-day by Mr. Joyce, of Vermont, and in the Senate by Sen. Logan, which requires every telegraph and cable company to receive and forward the business of any other company, whether it relates to the business of the company offering it or otherwise; also makes it a misdemeanor for any other than the person transmitting to examine the same.

Robbed of $2,000 Worth of Diamonds.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—

THE WEEKLY BLADE.

TOLEDO BLADE CO., Pubs.

D. R. LOCKE, Editor.
JOHN McELROY, Associate Editor.

TOLEDO, THURSDAY, DEC. 28.

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Circulation Last Week, 84,000.

THE WEEKLY BLADE AT $1.

To the many readers of this number of the BLADE who are not regular subscribers, we wish to say that we supply (post-paid) 52 numbers as good as the one before you, for the very low price of $1.00. No matter how many papers you take, you should have the BLADE at this low price. It is the cheapest and best paper in the world. Eight large pages, of 64 long columns, for $1.00 a year, postpaid.

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., is the largest single fortification in the world.

CHINA announces her firm intention to resist French troops in Tonquin.

A BERLIN paper says the relations between Germany and Russia are very unsatisfactory.

THE story goes that Mr. and Mrs. SCOVILLE have made up. Will this give the public a rest from this family for a season?

NEWS of great fires in China has just just reached this country. Great loss of property and life. Canton and Foo Choo were the suffers.

A COPENHAGEN paper states that the families in Denmark, in which the adults are not habitual opium eaters, are the exception and not the rule.

CHICAGO *Tribune:* The Shah of Persia pays his barber $5,000 a year. If the barber agrees to say nothing about hair-tonics the Shah is in luck.

IT is estimated that the wealth of the United States amounts to $49,770,000,000. It make's ones head swim to try to comprehend what such figures mean.

CHICAGO *Tribune:* The wife of STRAUSS, the composer, has sued for a divorce. STRAUSS, it will be remembered, is a confirmed piano-player.

SARAH BERNHARDT has given orders to her valet never to admit an American to her presence. Great Heaven! Is our beloved country going to ruin?

FRENCH women are courageous and enterprising. Fifty have offered to go to Numea to marry convicts there whom the Government wants to reward in that way.

THE Marquis of Lorne has sent a flock of fine sheep to Queen VICTORIA. Jokes about trying to pull the wool over his mother-in-law's eyes are now ripe enough to be picked.

MADAME CHRISTINE NILSSON-ROUZEAUD plays poker. A Denver man heard her say in that voice which has thrilled thousands, "I'll see your five and go you five better."

THE Catholic clergy of Montreal has felt called upon to denounce the strike in the boot and shoe factories by which between 6,000 and 7,000 hands are idle. It will probably end it.

ELECTRICITY is fast coming to be employed as a general motor. At a recent agricultural exhibition in Germany a threshing machine was driven by it at the rate of 1,400 revolutions a minute.

A NEW illuminating gas has been invented which is said to be six times as luminous as the old sort, and to be made much cheaper, the labor of three men producing as much as that of 1000 by the old method.

ACCORDING to the report of the Census Bureau the number of manufacturing establishments in the United States in 1880 was 253,840. The capital invested was $2,790,223,500, upon which there was a profit of $1,027,408,003, or 40 per cent. A pretty good showing that.

A CURIOUS suit is in progress in the United States Circuit Court in Pittsburg. A half-breed Indian girl is trying to establish her claim to the estate of the late ADDISON MOWRY. One feature is the attendance of several Chippewas in paint and feathers as witnesses.

THE world's stock of locomotives consists of 66,000; of passenger cars there are 120,000 and of freight cars 1,500,000. The capital invested in railways, which are in all 200,000 miles long, is $20,000,000,000. The commerce of the seas is carried by 12,000 steamers and 100,000 sailing vessels, whose tonnage amounts to over 20,800,000 tons.

ANYBODY can sell a good subscription book, and the best selling book of this season is "Nasby in Exile." Write the Locke Publishing Co., Toledo, O., for particulars.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

Ladies and gentlemen—but no, that is too formal, an address for the million well-beloved ones whom we have visited and held counsel with during the past 12 months.—Dear friends, a few more turnings of the hour-glass, and we have seen the last of 1882 forever. The old fellow—it seems like such a little time since we spoke of him hopefully as a promising youngster—is "now fading away into the infinite azure of the past," as Prof. HUXLEY poetically terms it. He will soon be but another little grain of sand on the boundless shores of eternity. We wish we could say that he has "gone like a beautiful vision," but regard for absolute truth prevents. He has been far too substantial for a vision, and none of us has found him "altogether lovely." He was born amid the mud and slush of a most tiresome Winter; he sobbed and sniffled through a cold and cheerless Spring, and his Summer was as damp and foggy as a bereaved widow's memories of her "better days." He only became decent and respectable during the latter part of his career. His August and September were delightful, and his October—well, his October was as perfect as a poet's dream. Never bent brighter skies over a more fruitful land; never did balmier airs and kindlier sunbeams kiss into blushing ripeness the luscious fruit upon a thousand hillsides; never did the tickled earth laugh with more bountiful harvests; never did the cavernous barns and roomy cribs strain nigher to bursting with the golden largess of a bounteous year; never did the jocund farmer lay aside plow and sickle with more content as to what they had won for him. It was such an Autumn as Long fellow describes:

Then followed that beautiful season,
Called by the pious Acadian peasants the Summer of All Saints.
Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; and the landscape
Lay as if new-created, in all the freshness of childhood.
Peace seemed to reign upon earth, and the restless heart of the ocean
Was for a moment consoled. All sounds in harmony blended.
Voices of children at play, the crowing of cocks in the farmyards,
Whir of wings in the drowsy air, and the cooing of pigeons,
All were subdued and low, as the murmurs of love, and the great sun
Looked with the eyes of love through the golden vapors around him;
While arrayed in its robes of scarlet russet and scarlet and yellow,
Bright with the sheen of the dew, each glittering tree of the forest
Flashed like the plane-tree the Persian adorned with manliess and jewels.
Now recommenced the reign of rest, and affection and stillness.

The first month of Winter has been a fitting sequence to such a glorious Autumn. Nowhere in the United States has there been those terrible extremes of cold that December sometimes brings, but it has been just such weather as brightens and vivifies trade and makes everything move prosperously. Upon the other side of the water they have not been so fortunate, as floods have produced their usual disastrous effects in several parts of the South and West of Europe.

Casting the eye back over the year and the business aspect of this country is a pleasant one. The immediate leap forward which all kinds of industrial enterprises took after the resumption of specie payment made the years of '80 and '81 wonderful in their contrast to the dark days that preceded them. The gain of '82 has not been nearly so great, and yet there *has* been a gain, a solid, substantial one over last year which promises much for the future. Several strikes were inaugurated and carried on for weeks, and even months in the case of the iron workers, but all were settled without violence, and the very fact that so many men could lie idle for so long and yet no widespread distress follow, shows better than anything else could do the prosperous condition of labor in the United States.

Pestilence and war have been strangers to the Nation for the 12 months past. At peace with the whole world its trade with foreign peoples has extended and increased in a wonderful degree, until there are few parts of the civilized world where American manufactures have not obtained a foothold. Protection at home has enabled them to attain such excellence as to successfully compete with those of older nations, with a flattering promise of future expansion and progress.

Emigration to this country has been very large this year, but it has worn a different aspect from what it has done in times past. The tendency has seemed to be to avoid the Cities and seek the farming lands, and large portions of the West have been thus taken up. This is a much more healthy growth than the other, for it makes better citizens.

While the rest of the world generally has not been so prosperous as the United States, there has been a most gratifying absence of wars all over the world. A disposition appears to be growing among all civilized nations to arbitrate difficulties rather than to rush into a trial of strength, altho the maintenance of immense standing armies would indicate a disposition to hold each other in check by force. The Egyptian war has been the most prominent struggle of the year, and it attracted great attention, more on account of the principles involved than the number of soldiers engaged or the size and fury of the battles fought. The result bids fair to be of great benefit to Egypt in all possible respects.

Upon the whole there has been a little improvement in the condition of Ireland. While the Nation has been shocked by a deed like the murder of CAVENDISH and BURKE, the people generally appear to be less disposed to riot and disorder, and more hopeful of the operations of Mr. GLADSTONE'S policy. There is, however, much yet to be done, and much distress to be alleviated in those portions now famine-stricken.

In other European countries a marked progress has been made towards republican government and against monarchies. The history of the past year when it is written will make this very evident. In several, representation by the people has been extended, while in others the signs of the times are of a coming change in the same direction.

Chili and Peru are still struggling for a settlement of their difficulties which appears to be exceedingly hard to reach. Chili is determined to be the possessor of Peru's most valuable properties and to make all out of her that is possible, while Peru makes strenuous resistance to such spoliation. Chili has, however might, if not right, upon her side.

One of the most interesting events in the scientific world during the year was the transit of Venus, by which the long agitated problem of the sun's distance from the earth is to be solved. Expeditions were sent out by the United States to different parts of the world to observe this interesting event which will not take place again for centuries. They were, in the highest degree, successful and the results when arrived at must be satisfactory. It was discovered that Venus possesses an atmosphere and that there is water upon her surface, two things which go far to prove that she may be inhabited.

The year has taken from the United States and Great Britain by death several literary men of prominence, but most of them had reached that age when full of honors they only seemed to stand and wait for the summons to another life. They are mourned but not as if they had been cut off before the ripeness of their work had been attained.

And so the year has past, and as it slowly fades away into the by-gone, and the New Year gleams upon our vision, we can only pray that the same measure of blessings which has been ours, the nations, and the world's, may extend through the days of EIGHTEEN EIGHTY-THREE.

"THE DUTCH PATROL."

Much the best thing in HARPER'S superb "Christmas" is EDMUND CLARENCE STEDMAN'S "The Dutch Patrol," a poem conceived and executed in that really great poet's happiest vein. To say this is to say everything, for Mr. STEDMAN stands at the head of our American singers. He is not so prolific as LONGFELLOW was, but what he produces is always eminently worth reading, which, alas, was very far from being the case with the great poet whom we now lament. While fully as responsive to the great yearnings of humanity as WHITTIER, and as courageous in speaking boldly for the right, Mr. STEDMAN'S muse allows herself a much wider range of action. In metrical finish, and sense of harmony, he has no superior among writers of English verse. "The Dutch Patrol," which we give below entire, represents the last of the Dutch Governors of New York, rising from his grave in St. Mark's churchyard, with his councillors and making the tour of the City, to see what changes have come to it since the last Christmas Eve. The poem is charmingly illustrated by the Tile Club—one two-thirds-page picture representing the quaint old Dutch nobleman in his 17th century costume, pipe in hand, and sword at side, looking at the strange walls around his tomb. The other represents him leading his councillors about the old street, on a tour of inspection. The poem is printed in antique 18th century type, which adds to its effect. Here it is:

When Christmas-Eve is ended,
Just at the noon of night,
Rare things are seen my mortal een
That have the second sight.
In St. Mark's church-yard then
They see the shape arise
Of him who ruled New Amsterdam
And here in slumber in lies.

His face beneath the close black cap,
Has a martial look & grim;
On either side his locks fall wide
To the broad collar's rim;
His sleeves are slashed: the velvet coat
Is fashioned Hollandese
Above his fustian breeches, trimmed
With scarf knots at the knees.

His leg of flesh is hosed in silk,
His wooden leg is bound,
As well befits a conqueror's,
With silver bands around.
He reads the lines that mark
His tablet on the wall,
Where boldly PETRUS STUYVESANT
Stands out beyond them all.

"'Tis well!" he says & sternly smiles,
"They hold our memory dear;
Nor rust nor moss hath crept across;
'Twill last this many a year."
Then down the path he strides,
And through the iron gate,
Where the sage Nine Men, his councillors,
Their Governor await.

Here are Van der Donck & Van Cortlandt,
A tripled more of Vans,
And Hendrick Kip of ilk haughty lip,
And Govert Loockermans,
Jan Jansen Dam, & Jansen,
Of whom our annals tell,—
All risen this night their lord to greet
At sound of the Christmas bell.

Nine lusty forms in linsey coats,
Puffed sleeves & ample hose!
Each burgher smokes a Flemish pipe
To warm his ancient nose;
The smoke-wreaths rise like mist,
The smokers all are mute,
Yet all, with pipes thrice waving slow,
Brave Stuyvesant salute.

Then into ranks they fall,
And step out three by three,
And he of the wooden leg & staff
In front walks solemnly.
Along their wonted course
The phantom troop patrol,
To see how fares New Amsterdam,
And what the years unroll.

Street after street & mile on mile,
From river bound to bound,
From old St. Mark's to Whitehall Point,
They foot the limits round;
From Maiden Lane to Corlear's Hook
The Dutchmen's pypen glow,
But never a word from their lips is heard,
And none their passing know.

Ere the first streak of dawn
At Mark's again they near,
And by a vault the Nine men halt
Their Governor's voice to hear
"Mynheers," he says, "ye see
Each year our borders spread!
Lo, one by one, the landmarks gone,
And marvels come instead!

"Not even a windmill left,
Nor garden-plot we know,
And but a paling marks the spot
Where erst my pear-tree grew.
Our walks are wearier still,—
Perchance & it were best,
So little of worth is left on earth,
To break no more our rest?"

Thus speaks old Petrus doubtfully
And shakes his valiant head,
When—on the roofs a sound of hoofs,
A rattling, pattering tread!
The bells of reindeer tinkle,
The Dutchmen plainly spy
St. Nicholas, who drives his team
Across the roof-tops nigh.

"Beshrew me for a craven!"
Cries Petrus—"All goes well!
Our patron-saint still makes his round
At sound of the Christmas bell.
So long as stanch St. Nicholas
Shall guard these homes hall,
There shall come no harm from hostile arm—
No evil chance befall!

"The yonkers & the vrouwlines
Shall have their hosen filled;
The butcher & the baker,
And every honest guild,
Shall merrily thrive & flourish:
Good night & be of cheer;
We may safely lay us down again
To sleep another year!"

Once more the pipes are waved,
Stout Petrus gives the sign,
The misty smoke enfolds them round,—
Him & his burghers nine.
All, when the cloud has lifted,
Have vanished quite away,
And the crowing cock & steeple clock
Proclaim 'tis Christmas-Day.

IT has always been trying and frequently stupid to write in a lady's autograph album. Now it threatens to become dangerous. A young Canadian has been on trial for tearing out a page from his sister's photograph album, and writing a note for $2,000 over the signature of a wealthy young man inscribed there. He escaped punishment by a technicality.

THIS seems to be a good time to reiterate that old newspapers are said to give more warmth than several thicknesses of cloth, when put inside of an overcoat or cloak. Now is the time to test it. If a couple of old papers will make a man's last year's benjamin feel like a $50 ulster, on such a day as this, then serfdom to the pawnbroker and the tailor is at last at an end, and a man will have some chance to accumulate capital enough to venture on a game of draw occasionally.

THE Department of Agriculture places the total corn product of the year at 1,625,000,000 bushels.

BIBLE BIOGRAPHY.

We have mailed over 2,000 copies of this remarkable cheap book to readers of the BLADE during the past two months. An elegant, large $3 book is not often mailed post-paid for $1.25, and our new subscribers should take advantage of the present opportunity, and secure a copy before they are gone. See description of book on eighth page of the present issue.

AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

It was known through cable dispatches that last September the Fourth International Congress of Hygiene held its sessions at Geneva, but as no full report of its proceedings has yet reached the public little interest has been felt by people generally to learn what was done there. In fact the United States and Great Britain were more poorly represented than other civilized nations which sent a great number of delegates each, there being 25 nationalities represented by 400 members.

Perhaps, however, there would be less indifference upon the subject if the importance of the paper or speech especially prepared for the Congress by M. PASTEUR, the great French physicist, was well understood. It is well to remark *en passant* that the French have the greatest pride and confidence in M. PASTEUR, and the Government has lately granted him $10,000 to help him in his researches.

The object which he has had in view and for which he has sacrificed yearly so many animal lives, was to discover whether the virus of several diseases, but more particularly typhoid fever and hydrophobia, could not be so attenuated by the action of then oxygen of the atmosphere, as to become sufficiently modified to serve as a vaccine, and therefore a protective against these diseases. By a long series of experiments upon animals he has proved this to be possible. In the case of hydrophobia his efforts were continuous and for a long time unsatisfactory, but he finally obtained a virus, which was an absolute protection against that fearful disease. The following from an article in the New York *Science of Health* gives some idea of what he did in this direction:

In February a child died at Paris of hydrophobia, and M. Pasteur inoculated a rabbit with the saliva taken from its mouth after death. The rabbit died in three days, and in its blood M. Pasteur found a new microbe. A few days later another person died of hydrophobia at the hospital of La Pitié, and more rabbits were inoculated with the saliva of the patient, taken both before and after death, and all the rabbits died; some from genuine hydrophobia, others from purulent, and others from septic disorders. At first M. Pasteur thought the microbe he had discovered was the special cause of hydrophobia; but, as he subsequently detected the same microbe in the saliva of persons who had died of other diseases, he was compelled to admit that the microbe in question only accompanied, and was not in itself, the poison of hydrophobia. Though this was disappointing, yet for all practical purposes the results attained were very important. By cultivating this microbe in veal broth M. Pasteur found it retained its virulence; and his assistant cultivated 80 generations of the microbe taken from the saliva of the patient who died from hydrophobia. The eightieth generation killed rabbits as rapidly as the first. But these were cultivated in closed tubes. In open tubes, on the contrary, the virus, yielding to the purifying effects of oxygen, lost its vitality so rapidly that it was impossible to seize in its attenuated form. It was either quite dead or still too virulent. M. Pasteur than hit upon the expedient of mixing his veal broth with some rabbit's blood, and in this mixture the life of the microbe was prolonged from about 12 to nearly 50 days. By taking the microbes during the last 10 days, when their vitality is at low ebb, and breeding from them new generations of a weaker nature; and from them again, when reduced by the action of air to a still lower condition, breeding yet another generation, M. Pasteur finally obtained a virus which, when inoculated into rabbits or guinea-pigs, no longer killed, but acted as a vaccine. After an inoculation of the attenuated virus, the animal could with impunity be inoculated with the virulent virus. Nor is there any reason to doubt but that the principle which has enabled M. Pasteur to prepare a vaccine for charbon, for chicken cholera, for typhoid, and for hydrophobia, may be extended to many other diseases.

This seems a great stride forward in the way of progress, as it is always true that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It is little wonder that the greatest enthusiasm prevailed in the Congress when M. PASTEUR finished reading his paper. His reputation as a man of science is too well established to allow of a doubt of the accuracy of his statements, and the prospect which his discovery opened was a brilliant one for the future. The next Congress and further developments will be anxiously looked for.

INTERESTING SPECULATION.

A good many prophecies are made of the future of this planet and its people, some of them drawn from what are called scientific facts and others based upon the veriest figments of the imagination. There are always those ready to make answer to any assertion and controvert any argument that may be brought to bear in proof, and the result of reading it all over is to convince one that nobody really knows anything about what is to come. Even the past gives no key, for conditions are so entirely different.

A writer lately called attention in *Nature* to the great pollution of the air, caused by the burning of coal. He argued that it was so changing the composition of the atmosphere necessary for animal life that by the year 1900 it would cease to exist upon the globe. This was answered by another writer with the fact that much of this gas was washed out of the air by the rain, and that while, therefore, great changes might be made, the extinction of life was not possible.

There is one very interesting thing connected with this matter in regard to the climate. In the combustion of coal there are some gases which are unburned, and which, although they escape into the air, are not removed by the rain. In 30 years it is estimated these reach to 100,000,000 tons. Now, if it is true, as Prof. TYNDALL asserts, that these have the property in a very high degree of absorbing and radiating heat, it is evident that this great quantity must have a telling effect upon the heat and cold in different parts of the world. The nights will be colder and the days warmer, and great storms will be more frequent.

Perhaps this will partially, at least, explain the apparent multiplication of hurricanes, floods, etc., during the last few years. That the climate is changing in different localities is also true, and it has been a question as to what could be the cause. Various reasons have been assigned in this country, such as the cutting away and burning of the forests, the cultivation of the soil, etc., but no one of these things is sufficient in itself to account for it. Of course, the whole is largely speculation, but it is extremely interesting, if it leads to no definite results.

CHEAP BOOKS.

Both Macaulay' and Knight's Histories of England recently announced in the BLADE are exhausted. We can supply no more. We have a few sets of Waverly Novels, a handsome cloth edition in 12 volumes, worth $20, which we will send by express on receipt of $10; also about a half dozen sets of Breton's Encyclopedia, in four large cloth volumes, illustrated, worth $25 per set, which we will send by express on receipt of $10. This Encyclopedia is an English work, a rare and good one. These books will not last us two weeks. Orders must be sent promptly to secure these bargains. For announcement of other books, see second page of this issue.

CHEAP ALUMINUM.

A short time ago the following message was sent from London:

LONDON, Dec. 13.—A process for the cheap production of aluminium has been discovered. The invention causes no little excitement in the metal trade at Birmingham and Sheffield.

This announcement naturally produced some excitement in the scientific world, which has for many years anticipated a revolution in the industries of the world when a way should be found for producing cheaply—so wonderful a metal as aluminum.

A number of letters on the subject have been written by scientists. A noteworthy one of these was that written by Mr. STEDMAN, in which he considers the discovery with reference to its application to aerial navigation. He calls attention to a previous letter of his to *Scribner's Magazine*, in which he stated as the three necessary factors to the further development of air-traveling:

1. *A motor distinguished by a greater economy of power than the best hitherto constructed.* After the appearance of my article I received from the eminent Chief Engineer of the Erie Railway, Mr. Octave Chanute, Vice President of the American Association of Civil Engineers, carefully prepared tables of the ratios of increased atmospheric resistance to increased speed, showing what powerful and economical motors are required to overcome the former. This gentleman also has made experiments, by affixing apparatus to railway cars, in order to determine the shape of a moving structure which shall meet with the least resistance from the air.

B. *A method of storing force*, so that it could be applied to the propulsion of the aëronon, with economy of weight, without danger to the structure of ignition, and in quantity sufficient for prolonged flight. I wrote that "the electric engine will be required. Electricity, in fact, will be as indispensable to the aërostat as to one of Jules Verne's imaginary structures. The electric light will flash from its lookout station, and illumine the inner galleries, while the steering and propulsion will be governed by electric signals."

Within this year the marvelous invention of the Faure accumulator has solved the problem of the *storage of force*, and we are assured that equally surprising advances may be expected in its capacity to render a greater amount of energy, for the given bulk and weight of the reservoir.

3. *A cheap process of obtaining aluminum in quantity was yet to be discovered.* I wrote that "lightness and strength" must be the watchword. "All the internal stays, ties, braces to be made of strong but delicate metallic rods, wire, and *tubing*."

Aluminium is a bluish-white metal, of ps. g. 2.57, and therefore lighter than glass, and only about one-third the weight of iron or copper. It does not tarnish in the air and is not affected by sulphureted hydrogen. In the form of silicate of aluminum it forms the greater part of common clay. But, on account of the difficulty of extraction from the latter, it is usually procured from cryolite, a mineral from Greenland. Four or five years ago it was worth $8 an ounce, last year it was only $1 an ounce, and a little later it was reduced to 40 cents an ounce.

Mr. STEDMAN'S letter concludes:

As yet we do not know how cheap is the new method of production, but if your London telegram is well founded, and if the cost of aluminum can be reduced to any sum approximating the cost of steel, making allowance for the difference in specific gravity of the two substances, we can safely assert that the year 1882 has provided two of three factors required for the solution of the problem of aerial navigation.

DETECTION OF THE GUILTY.

It is sometimes said that it is impossible for a person guilty of crime to escape detection in these days of railroads and telegraphs and constantly improving detective and police systems. That, however, is not true, for there are continually examples of the eluding of justice by the perpetrators of the most brutal and dastardly deeds, notwithstanding every effort is made to discover their whereabouts. The same means that are used to trace them, sometimes gives them the chance of concealment, and their sin will not find them out for a long time.

Occasionally some little thing that seems the merest trifle will lead to the arrest and conviction of the criminal. The guilty one has taken every precaution that it seems possible to take and yet in an unexpected way betrays himself or is betrayed. An instance of this is seen in the case of the two men recently arrested in Dublin for complicity in the Phenix Park murders. They are named BRADY and HANLON, the latter a tall and robust fellow of 35, by occupation a leather currier, as one dispatch says, or a letter carrier, as another says, and the former a small man, 28 years old, and by occupation a paver. What led to suspicion was the following circumstance: A week or two ago one of the jurors in a criminal case, DENNIS FIELD, was the victim of a most savage assault by two men, and the mode of attack was precisely like that employed in the murder of BURKE and CAVENDISH. This fact led the detectives to believe that the same persons were concerned in both affairs. These men are strongly suspected of being concerned in the attack upon FIELD, and several persons who saw the assassins of CAVENDISH and BURKE leave Phœnix Park after the terrible deed, believe BRADY and HANLON to have been among them. That the presumption is very strong against them is evident from their arrest, and it is possible that the mystery so long maintained is upon the eve of being cleared away.

ARCTIC MISTAKES.

If any more Arctic expeditions are sent out it would be well that those having the matter in hand should select persons to take charge of the matter who are thoroly familiar with Arctic travel, or willing to take advice from persons who have spent years in those cold regions. Everything, success and life itself, sometimes hinges upon what are apparently trifles. While DELONG may have been a brave officer, if many things are true which now seem to be so, he was not the man who should have had charge of the "Jeannette" expedition.

A Russian in the employ of the Alaska Fur Company, and the last man from whom DELONG purchased provisions, says that one great mistake was killing the dogs, of which he had 27, as their scent is remarkable and they will discover the buried bear's meat which has been placed in the ice by those who have had more than they needed. An Indian in those regions whose dog is killed will lie down and die in sheer despair. Then the men should have had fowling pieces with which they could have killed birds, but they took Remington rifles that were of no use. Nor had they any fishing tackle. By cutting a hole in the ice anywhere, and flashing a light down the fish will swarm, but they had no means of catching them.

If these statements are correct there would appear to have been mismanagement and ignorance somewhere that brought to their death many brave men. They cannot be restored but if any more useless expeditions are started, it would be well for the projectors to be sure that every precaution known to those familiar with the ice-bound Arctic regions should be taken.

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS.

The matter of a change in certain respects of the public school system there is under serious consideration in New York City. The complaint is that too much is required and too little accomplished, that the teachers are merely automata, being allowed no liberty in their methods of teaching or in their way of managing their schools. It is a strong feeling that some of these restrictions should be taken away and leave more liberty of action.

Another thing which militates against progress is the cast-iron time table. A teacher gets the interest of her pupils thoroly aroused in some subject, and they are in that bright, receptive condition in which facts would make a strong impression and be remembered, when the bell or signal announces that the time is up and a complete change must be made. When the next recitation comes around the same process must be gone thro with again in order to get the pupils ready to accept instruction. The idea is to place the matter more in the hands of the teacher, and then holding her directly responsible for results.

The evil complained of in New York are felt everywhere, and the effect of the proposed changes will be watched with interest. There is no question but that there is too much of the arbitrary no-variation rules prevalent, and that pupils are put thro exactly the same mill, whatever their talants, temperament or condition. Yet it is a question how to avoid this and make the schools as efficient as they are now. One thing would have to be done, and that is the course of study cut down to smaller limits and more liberty allowed to the principals of schools with respect to arrangements.

Another evils is to be struck at in New York—how forcibly it remains to be seen—and that is political manipulation. The people are beginning to see that the best schools cannot be had when the teachers are appointed to please some local politician. The result must be corruption, and it is notorious that the New York schools have been run in this way for years. It is a good sign that the people are becoming conscious of the wrong, and calling for reform.

A little of the same consciousness would be an excellent thing in Toledo. The management of the schools should be taken entirely out of the domain of politics. No one should be made a school officer because he is a Republican or Democrat, but because he has a deep interest in the cause of education, is a practical, earnest man, willing to devote time and energy to the discharge of his duties. Time was but now is not, when that was the condition of things here. The history of the election and management of the Board of Education for the last few, years, could it be written out truthfully, would be an interesting one and astonishing to the majority of the people. They would discover that there are ways and means of making a personal and selfish use of even such a school office undreampt of in their philosophy. Reform is needed in Toledo in this direction as well as in New York.

A GOOD THING.

A new invention which promises very much for the future comfort of travelers is a spark and cinder catching machine which will keep all the soot, ashes, sparks and cinders in the locomotive, to be dumped either at the end of the journey or at various intervals along the road. The New York *Sun* gives the following description of the invention:

The apparatus consists of an additional two feet on the front end of a locomotive's boiler, running down two feet below the usual level. The lower section is used as a water tank and cinder receptacle, arranged with a dump-door perfectly watertight. Every engine uses its exhausted steam for making a draught. With this machine the exhaust is delivered above a deflector into the smokestack. The deflector is one of the most important points in the invention. It consists of a plate of 3-16 inch sheet iron, which runs in an easy curve from just above the flues to a point within 10 inches of the water-line in the tank. This plate is the exact width of the smoke arch. The exhaust creates a powerful draught, and the cinders and ashes and sparks are whirled through the flues toward the smokestack. As they come from the flues they are carried violently against the deflector, and following its curve downward, plunge by their own velocity into the water in the bottom of the tank, while the air and smoke, free of cinders, sparks and ashes, sweep around the end of the deflector and out of the smokestack. The velocity of the downward sweep of the draught is twice as great as the upward, and it is utterly impossible for anything to get out of the smokestack except the vapor. As the cinders shoot into the water they sink and gradually accumulate in the bottom of the tank. When the receptacle is reasonably full, the engineer opens the dump door, discharges the whole load, closes the door, and all is ready again. When the door is closed the tank fills up to the water-line, but is prevented from going any further by an automatic overflow, which precludes the possibility of any water entering the flues. The mechanical arrangements for ascertaining the condition of the cinders and water in the tank are perfect. There is a float in the tank that is operated perfectly from the cab. The engineer knows at all times the exact amount of water and just the quantity of cinders in the tank, by testing with the float. The dump door is also manipulated from the cab, and the engineer can, by a simple turn of the wrist, open the door, discharge the cinders, wash out the tank, and close the door again, all within 10 seconds. The tank can be refilled within 45 seconds, and it is all done while the train is going at full speed. The tank holds about 130 gallons of water, and handles about 15 bushels of cinders. With good hard coal this apparatus may be run 100 miles and upward without dumping; with good soft coal about 30 miles, while with poor soft coal it would be necessary to dump every 15 miles. Not the least important thing about the appliance is the economy in coal through the uninterrupted course of the draught. It has been found by actual experiment that the saving was often 18 and 30 per cent.

FREDDY probably cannot lecture, and therefore the only way he can realize cash dividends upon his notoriety will be to have a play written for him, *a la* FORD brothers, or start a high-toned saloon, filled with the representations of beauty adorned only by the entire absence of any adornment, as that other society lion, Mr. EDWIN STOKES, has done. About all of his father's strong mental qualities which FREDDY seems to have inherited is the old gentleman's keen German thrift. This will lead him to attempt to get back some of the funds he has invested in his love adventure, and no doubt he is meditating one of the courses we have suggested.

MRS. MARY CLEMMER, writing from Washington, says that the mentally strong men among the Democrats, like BAYARD, BUTLER of South Carolina, RANDALL, and others, have penetration enough to see that their autumnal triumph is far more a Republican rebuke than it is absolutely a Democratic victory.

TO COUNTRY PUBLISHERS.

We have on hand in "standing matter," some 4,000 to 5,000 pounds of brevier, minion, nonpariel and agate type, which we will sell in lots of not less than 100 pounds, boxed and shipped by express at the following very low prices: Brevier, 20 cents; minion, 34 cents; nonpariel, 28 cents; agate, 30 cents. Cash must accompany the order. This type has been but little used and nearly as good as new.

AT the beginning of this month the serving out of grog and other alcoholic beverages, to the sailors on the Inman, Cunard and other British lines, was stopped. As a result there is sadness and much theological language in the forecastle. The coffee, which was substituted, does not find much favor in Jack's eyes, for he claims that it does not sustain him when working in the icy rigging. According to an officer, the sailors will more than make up for their enforced sobriety when once in port. However, he thinks it is a good idea since the old system was productive of so many evils; for instance, five or six men would often club together allowing each man in turn to draw their whole allowance, thus enabling each to get drunk about once a week. Another bad effect was that the younger sailors drew their liquor like the older ones, thus laying the foundation for a taste for liquor.

SEVERAL people having been poisoned by bologna sausage lately, people are beginning to inquire what sort of material is used in making them. The New York *Herald* says:

It is reported that sausage is made of the flesh of swine, horses, goats, sheep, cats, dogs, and all other animals that are large enough to cut up. That meat for sausages should be fresh and even untainted does not seem to be necessary, as the vender of meat pies said to one of the principal characters in "Pickwick," "It's the flavor, Mr. Veller, the flavor." An ancient goat, an antique cab horse, an undesirable bull, or a superannuated mule may impart flavors far more original than simple beef or pork could do. These facts are worthy of contemplation, particularly in families that are fond of sausage. Indeed, any one who has been in a dissecting room might suggest that the human form divine can supply 50 or 60 pounds of material that can be finely minced and stuffed into skins for the purpose of many a meal is merely to present sausage itself, regardless of antecedents.

SALES of wives are becoming quite frequent. Within a short time a Maine man sold his better half for $15; one in New Jersey disposed of his for goods valued at $25; another in Maryland got $100, and a few days ago Mr. ALFRED JENKINS, of North Carolina, received $500 down hard cash for Mrs. JENKINS, and all parties are reported satisfied with their bargain. Verily this a new condition of affairs.

TEXAS *Sifting:* There will be no more train robbing in Missouri for some time to come. If a man with such a host of friends and backers as Frank James has can not make it pay, it is no use for a stranger, or an unpopular native, to go into the business. Robbing trains and banks in Missouri would, no doubt, elevate a man socially, but there is no money in it any more.

GERMANY is raising her Tariff to discriminate against French goods. If she had dared to do this a century ago she would be now one of the richest instead of one of the poorest countries in Europe. It was French policy to keep her weak and divided, that she might not have a national policy that would interfere with French supremacy in trade and politics.

THE subject of homing pigeons as military couriers is attracting considerable attention especially upon the Pacific Coast. Experiments have been made by army officers in this direction which have been attended with great success. The plan is seriously considered of making the art a part of military preparations.

THE Queen shows how much she thought of Lord BEACONSFIELD by the fact that his vacant stall in the chapel of St. George's, Windsor, has not been refilled. As a mark of respect for his memory, she determined it should be unoccupied for a twelve-month; but nearly two years have passed since the death of the great Conservative leader, and her Majesty has not given away his blue ribbon,

THE papers are beginning to protest against the idiocy of votes at church fairs and elsewhere for the "handsomest man" or woman, the "most popular man," the "ugliest man," etc. There is usually more bad blood and contentions stirred up at these than will neutralize one preacher's efforts for good during the entire year.

AMERICAN manufacturers are advised to make a full display of their wares at the Holland International Exhibition next Spring. Our exports there have increased very rapidly in the last few years, and will continue to do so if the excellence of American productions are understood by the Dutch who are a thoroly practical people.

HON. EDWARD MCPHERSON figures out the complexion of the next House thus:

Democrats	191
Republicans	119
Independents	5
Greenbackers	2
Readjusters	6
Democratic majority over all	59

THE New York *Herald* says, some pretty sharp thing about what it calls "the great cable swindle." It says the cable monopoly is the most gigantic system of organized robbery in existence in any civilized country. "Organized robbery" is only another name for all monopolies.

As an example of the rapid growth of some parts of the South, it is stated that Weston, Miss., two years ago was a pine forest. Now it has a cotton mill employing 1,000 hands, and has nearly 3,000 inhabitants.

A HUNGARIAN couple who had fled from their own country on account of parental interference with their proposed marriage, were united at Castle Garden the other night. Quite a gay affair was made of it by those who had learned their story.

THE sensational writers in Paris claim that GAMBETTA'S wound was no accident, that he was the victim of an attempted assassination, and the cause was jealousy. Of course a woman must be dragged into the case.

THE "Passion Play," about which there has been so much discussion, is positively to be produced in New York, where the preparations are now going forward upon a magnificent scale.

NOTWITHSTANDING the utmost watchfulness in the palace of the Louvre, it is said that scarcely a day passed without some one wilfully defacing a picture.

DROP US A POSTAL CARD.

We have issued a neat "Nasby" poster which we would be glad to have displayed conspicuously in every town in the United States. Any one who will post them up for us may have one or more of them on application.

We want to mail thousands of copies of

Correspondence.

LETTER FROM BUCKEYE.

The Recess—Great Progress in the Public Business—Civil Service Reform—The Dorseys and Bradys—Interesting Argument Before the Supreme Court—Political Assessments—The Future of the Republican Party.

Correspondence of the Toledo Blade:

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24, 1882.

If anybody has any doubt as to what is the point of weakness with the average Congressman it should be removed by the session in relation to the Christmas holiday. It may be that Congressmen are not more selfish than other men, but they have a better opportunity to show it, and they are not apt to neglect their opportunities. Both parties feel that they are on their good behavior, and they want the people to believe that they are devotedly patriotic and true to their best. But when it comes to the test some personal object conflicts with the public interest. Alas! for public interest. That was precisely the situation in this matter of the vacation. They wanted to show their fealty to the people; but they wanted a good deal more, to show themselves to their families at home. Nobody abused them for this and the admiration of the public business fairly melted them to it, but the attempted show of devotion to the people's cause was a flash in the pan. They were frightened when the fatal hour arrived that their resolution had passed, and immediately set to work to undo it by indirect means. They granted leaves of absence to everybody that asked, and showed so plainly that they had no earnest intention of going on with the public business that the matter was the town talk, and Newspaper Row laughed over it, and amused the public with interviews showing that the vacation was sure to be a disgraceful one. On the following day, the 19th, a member who proposed to fine all the absentees, on hearing from the Speaker that 15 more leaves had been applied for, moved for a recess from Friday, the 22d of December to Tuesday, the 2d of January, and it was carried: 127 to 101. So Congress got what it wanted and meant to have.

But this is a small matter, and only indicates that there is a little of the old leaven remaining on hand. It is still true that the work thus far, is a vast improvement on its predecessors. When, before, has the House ever passed five appropriation bills before Christmas? The Tariff, too, with its voluminous schedule, is being examined by the Committees in both Houses, and will be reported in the Senate soon after the holiday recess. On this subject the Senate is in advance of the House, which ought to be a credit to it, but may prove to be a stumbling block. Under the Constitution revenue bills must originate in the House, and as the House is very jealous of its prerogatives, it will probably pay no attention to the Senate bill, but go on with its own measure, and in due time send it over to the Senate to be acted on by that body. The House Committee on Ways and Means, for Chairman Wm. D. Kelly, of Pennsylvania, the most pronounced Protectionist in Congress, and its work on the Tariff can hardly fail to be shaded by Mr. Kelly's views. The Senate bill will, in all probability, be a letter representative of the public sense on that subject than the House bill.

The Civil Service Reform, from which so much was expected may still be regarded as in the formative state. The party which clamored so loudly for it when the party was in a hopeless minority, finds itself in a very different frame of mind now that its prospects have brightened. The truth is abundantly apparent that its leaders do not want any such Civil Service as the country demands. Sen. Brown, of Georgia, and Sen. Voorhees, of Indiana, are dead against any such measure and discount it for the very reason that the great body of the people want it. Their argument against it is that the offices are needed to awaken enthusiasm in the party. Sen. Brown said that if the offices were divided up by rule or some other Civil Service measure and the Democratic party were to understand that the election of their candidate did not carry with it an Administration force, the great body of the party would be indifferent about the election.

In taking this position, the Senator revealed the true reason why a reform in the Civil Service is demanded by so many of our most enlightened citizens. The offices have become the means of disciplining the party; they are what makes the contest so reckless. After a sharp battle the Bradys and Dorseys will have organized it and furnished the sinews of war much up to the Captain's wishes. Mr. Maclay, the Bonanza king. Then that S. W. Dorsey, who is on trial for offenses committed against honesty in the Star Route conspiracy, came near to occupying a place in the Cabinet of Pres. Garfield, the failure being due to his declining the offered position. It is the complaint that such men, under Sen. Brown's theory, come naturally to the front and carry corruption into the high places of the Government. What the Civil Service Reformers mean is to remove the element as far as possible from our public affairs and to have the Government administered, not for the benefit of a political party, but for the benefit of the people. This is certainly an object worthy of the highest consideration, but Sen. Brown and the other Democratic leaders need not be alarmed; there will always be, in spite of every effort at reform, too much of the old system of rewards.

The Supreme Court has been unusually attractive for the last few days and many lawyers and public men have been crowding into its narrow quarters to hear the arguments in the tax case which has come up from California. The main question is as to the effect of the clause in the 14th Constitutional amendment which forbids "equal protection of the laws" for all "persons." The "person" involved is a railroad corporation which claims to have been taxed unjustly and not on the same scale as other "persons," hence has come to Washington to seek relief under this clause of the Constitution. The argument in behalf of the taxing authority was made by ex-Chief Justice A. L. Rhodes, of California, and is spoken of as very able. The argument of ex-Sen. Conkling yesterday in behalf of the Corporate excise has attracted attention.

The Court, as you have noticed, has reaffirmed the decision of the Court below in the case of N. M. Curtis, who had been fined a thousand dollars for disregarding the statute which prohibits officers of the Federal Government from collecting of each other political subscriptions. Mr. Curtis contended that the law was a violation of the constitutional guarantee of free speech and hence unconstitutional. The Court did not agree with him, but maintained (one Judge dissenting) that Congress has the power to regulate the public service, and its duty is to see that it is kept from influences and associations which would injure its efficiency. Hence it forbids Treasury officers from engaging in commerce, prohibits them from acting as claim agents, and requires Federal Judges not to practice law. The Court regards the regulation discarded by Mr. Curtis, as of the same nature, and, therefore, sustains the decision of the lower Court. Mr. Curtis has, accordingly, paid his fine, and will go and sin no more. On the whole, the political assessment is not prosperous, but when a political party wants money it will find in some way to draw it out of its benefactors.

There is, of course, a great deal of interest in Washington about the future of the Republican party. It was so steadily aided by its friends and patrons that doubts are expressed as to whether it can recover from the shake of the late elections in time to take the field united and strong for the coming Presidential election. It is too early yet, to pronounce on such a question, but if Congress, at its present session, meets the public expectation, a large step in advance will have been taken. The Democrats are cautious, and do not mean to be caught in any blunders, but the howl which they have set up against any reform in the Civil Service, and the determination which they manifest to cling to the spoils system so severely condemned by the people shows that they cannot get out of the old rut and are not equal to the public expectation. A year's reflection should alter the views of the factious politicians, and there seems to be no good reason why a Presidential nomination like that of Edmunds or Harrison, made outside of the political ruts, should not secure the confidence of the country and be successful by a strong majority. Let Congress open the way by judicious legislation, and all will be well. BUCKEYE.

NEW YORK LETTER.

Holiday Affairs—Protection of Children—New and Old Passion Plays—Making a Hero of Ed. Stokes—Democrats Hunting for Spoils—The Pilgrim Blarney-Stone—Odds and Ends.

Correspondence of the Toledo Blade.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.

After a villainous northeaster for two days the sun shines gloriously, and there is reason to expect fair weather, for Christmas at least. Everybody who is anybody is jolly, and the amount of shopping far exceeds that of any season within the memory of man. Fairs and entertainments are in progress day and night. Last night I looked in at the True Puritan Mission (the foundation of which I attended nearly 10 years ago,) and was delighted at seeing presents given to several hundreds of poor children. This mission, and such organizations as the "Children's Aid Society," the "Home for Little Wanderers," and others, are doing true Christian work of vast importance. "Just as the twig is bent" has pxed the destiny of millions of the young everywhere, and in our great City there are thousands of things that need bending into the right path. History tells of a King stricken in years who had no heir, but was hourly expecting one. He was told by the physicians that either the mother or the child must die in the parturition. "Then let it be the Queen," was the reply. "I can find plenty of wives, but am by no means sure of another heir." Perhaps the tyrant was somewhat merciless, but his theory of saving the child was sound.

Another reform concerning children is soon to be introduced by our Board of Education in reducing the number of studies to be followed at one time in the public schools. Better learn one thing well than a indifferently.

THE PASSION PLAY.

Our religiously inclined people are not only exercised over the non-execution of the laws for the quiet of Sunday, but the impending "Passion Play" is a subject of anxious discussion. It was thought a while ago that the sentiment of the large Roman Catholic population would be so strongly opposed that the manager would not venture to produce the play; but that opinion was modified when it was discovered that a play apparently very similar had been regularly performed in a little theater in the basement of St. Bernard's (Catholic) church during the holy season for seven years past. It is to be done this season, commencing immediately. The pastor of the church, Rev. Gabriel A. Healey, says "the drama is my own compilation, from diverse sources, but generally follows closely the New Testament narrative. The exhibition of Christmas cribs, tableaus of wax figures illustrative of the scene at the birth of the Redeemer, is not at all an uncommon thing in Catholic churches at this season. As long ago as when we were down on Thirteenth street we had a reputation for these exhibitions. In 1875 I had the idea of introducing living characters in place of most of the waxen figures. On the Christmas of that year I carried out my idea, and, I am happy to say, with success, in the production of a 'Christmas Cantata,' the same as we have done every year since, and are now preparing to do again. In addition to the Nativity we still retain the original wax figures of the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, and the infant Jesus. All the others are members of our congregation. The 'Cantata' is a play or drama of eight acts, or more properly scenes representing the principal events occurring at the birth of our Lord in Bethlehem. Originally most all the parts were sung, but as it is now arranged it is a dialog interspersed with tableaux, chorals, and recitations, all relating to the Nativity."

I have before me a very rare and curious book, in which are minute descriptions of old Passion plays or mysteries, performed in English theaters before Shakspere's time. Here are the titles of some parts more notable: "The Birth of Mary;" "Mary's education in the Temple and being served by Angels;" "The Miraculous Espousal of Mary and Joseph;" "A Council of the Trinity, and the Incarnation;" (in this play the chief characters are: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, Gabriel the Archangel, Truth, Mercy, Justice, Peace and Mary.) The next play is "Joseph's Jealousy," in which the husband uses language that would hardly do in these times. Among the characters are Mary, Joseph, Susanna, God Almighty and an Angel. Through their joint efforts Joseph is pacified, "expresses satisfaction, thanks God, is reconciled to Mary, and thus the play concludes." Then follows "The Visit of Mary to Elizabeth," "The Trial of Mary and Joseph," (in consequence of the scandal concerning "Mary," and "The Miraculous Birth and the Midwives." Of course no plays like these would be tolerated now days; nor is much of Shakspere's language ever heard on the stage. Very likely the promised play will be brought out, but that it will meet with popular favor is hardly possible.

WORSHIP OF LIVING HEROS.

One of the most popular men of the time, in our City, is Edward S. Stokes, who rose to fame, and, as it seems, to fortune, by killing Col. Fisk. A few days ago he dropped in a tavern near Brooklyn, where he was cordially greeted by a crowd of bankers, merchants, millionaires, lawyers and other prominent people. For some years after the great event of his life, Stokes kept very quiet. Then he suddenly came forward as the landlord of a magnificent drinking-place, connected with the Hoffman House. The place is gorgeously fitted up with silver and gold, nude pictures of rare beauty, and is crowded day and night by swells. Then he became a favorite with John W. Mackey, the Bonanza king. Then he speculated in theatrical business, and is going to build a theater of his own. His last inclination is toward fast horses and the turf. He is still a good-looking man, though his hair is getting gray, and his face is deeply furrowed. He is a hero among women, crowds of whom on one occasion flocked to see his nude pictures and taste his old wines. Now these questions will have to grow dim when the slayer of Jesse James puts in his appearance!

LOCAL POLITICS.

The scramble for office under the coming Mayor is growing lively. The Republicans, as it now looks, will have little show. A Democrat will be President of the Board of Aldermen, and, no doubt, the time-honored principles of that party, "to the victors belong the spoils," will be carried to its full extent. In the meantime the Democratic State Government is "investigating" the only Republican Board in the City, the Commissioners of Emigration, with a view of grasping that as soon as possible after the 1st of January. When you speak to a Democrat about "Civil Service" the invariable answer is, "Civil Service be—blest."

Neither snow nor skating will happify our holidays, from present appearances.

Business men look for a great many failures after the close of holiday trade.

Operas and plays are largely attended, but lectures seem to be played out.

Public opinion is running toward single heads for City departments. The wrangling in the Park, the Docks, the Police, and the Emigration Commissions, where business is botched or not done at all, draws attention to the excellent management of the Custom House and the Postoffice, in each of which one man only is responsible.

The Sons of New England kissed the Yankee blarney-stone (Plymouth Rock) last night at a grand dinner, where the usual self-laudation was indulged in. ZENO.

FLORIDA.

A Northerner's Visit to the Land o Flowers.

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade:

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 13, 1882.

I left Cleveland for Florida December 5, and after a continual ride of 52 hours I landed safe in Jacksonville. It seemed so like a dream—so strange when I looked from my window on the the morning of the 8th, and saw trees clothed in green, and orange trees loaded with golden fruit. I could scarcely realize the change. A few hours before I was being pelted with snow and sleet. Winter, grim, old Winter, was taking possession there. What a contrast!

Well, I have been in the City six days, promenading the streets, gazing up and down and over the river at the harbor, rambling out into the country, asking questions of the natives,

EATING ORANGES,

and making myself inquisitive generally. Of course I have not seen all of Florida yet, but I have been already more than paid for all my expense and rough journeying here. Jacksonville has about 15,000 inhabitants, white and black, about equally divided; or as the Englishman would say "about 'alf and 'alf." It is a wide awake City. Northern brains and colored muscle makes the City lively and prosperous everywhere. In appearance it is a Northern City in a Southern clime, and I doubt if another one like it could be found in the States. About the first thing that attracts one's attention here are

FLORIDA CURIOSITIES,

They are shown in the windows, exhibited on the streets, and are on sale almost every where. The wild beasts and birds of Florida forests, range from a humming bird to a gigantic grandfather alligator. Then there are the curious ishus, reptiles, seashells, boar's tusks, alligator teeth, etc. Many of these are wrought into watch-seals, breast-pins, etc. Some of them are really beautiful, and costly. I was offered an alligator for 25 cents. Only think of it! A real, live alligator! Of course it was only a baby. I could have had my choice from a hundred for more money, but I declined, for the present, though the vender assured me that alligators were on the rise, and that he could box them ready for transportation and that they would live on air for a long time, and grow and thrive continually.

FLORIDA LIVE STOCK.

There is another class of curiosities here that will make any Northern laugh, even if he was in the last stage of consumption. The first one of these that I noticed was the Florida hog. With his bristles off, I could could scarcely guess what he was. His head, neck and nose were so heavy and long that he nearly tilted up behind whenever he straightened out his neck. He was really thin. I have seen Ohio side-pork thicker than that whole hog. The next Florida product that attracted my attention was a native of this Fairy Land going to market with an old, dilapidated, brindle ox hitched to a clumsy cart between two crooked poles for shafts, with a wooden collar, two log chains for tugs, and a saddle on his back. The native was astride the ox, goad in hand, his three interesting urchins sitting flat on the bottom of the cart, peeping between the spokes of the cart-wheel. This is a beautiful sketch, not a bit overdrawn.

I have yet to see the first drunken man in Florida. I have never been in any City where I felt so much at home and so entirely secure as here. The residents seem happy and contented, all wear a smiling face, even the darkies' black faces shine with merriment. The soil in this vicinity is a gray-ashy color, all sand. However, it is said to be better in other parts of Florida.

IMMIGRATION.

I think it would be bad policy for any one to immigrate here without first coming here and learning all the facts for himself. Concerning the climate here in the Summer, I know nothing except what residents tell me, but they say that the heat is not so oppressive here as it is in the Northern States. I know what it is now, and I wish I could describe it. If I should say it is charming, beautiful, exhilarating, and lovely, I should not overdo the description. I will only say that it is all of this, and more. A starlight night in Florida is grand beyond description, and when I look heavenward on such a night I wonder how it will look when the silvery moon appears. There are new arrivals from the North, of invalids, tourists and immigrants by the hundreds every day, and the number increases daily. Among the invalids are many consumptives. Poor fellows! Many of them have come too late. It is all useless to come here in the last stages of consumption. It would be better for them to stay at home among friends and kindred to die in peace. I can see but little hope for a consumptive here, even in its first stages, where they do as many are doing here. They come to Florida, stop in the city, shut themselves up in a close room and have but little fresh air, sunshine or exercise. In such a case they die here just as they would in Ohio or any other State. If a person comes here to regain his health, he should get away from the city, go out into the country, or near the pine forests, bathe in the sunshine, ramble through the woods and spend part of the time in hunting, fishing, or any thing to occupy his mind and give him plenty of exercise. If he is too feeble to do these things, he is already too far gone to look for a cure in Florida. I have very little faith in any cure for a consumptive, even Florida. Yet I have talked with quite a number here who claim to have been greatly benefited by a change from a Northern climate to this, and hear of others who claim to have been entirely cured. All residents here emphatically affirm that this is a healthy State.

FLORIDA FOODS.

Somebody will want to know what we have to eat, and how much it costs to buy it. We have plenty to eat and quite a variety. We have fish, fowl, pork and beef, Irish and sweet potatos, bread, cheese, coffee, tea, fruit, etc. The cost of living in Jacksonville will depend very much on the amount of style one wishes to pay for, or, perhaps, the heft of his pocket-book. A man may live here on $1 per day and have plenty to eat, or he may pay $5 per day and eat less.

The excursion of

OHIO EDITORS

stopped over here night before last. I saw them leave the wharf on the steamer "Sylvan Glen," for a trip up the river, yesterday morning. They were a fine looking set of fellows, as *all* Ohio men are. I suppose they will push the quill on Florida with many a flourish when they get back to Ohio. But a man will surely come short of writing up Florida unless he sees more of it than he can possibly see on one trip, and over one railroad, with a hurried trip up and down one of its rivers. But the land speculators of Florida knew well what they were doing, and how to advertise, when they gave them a free ride over the rail and up the river. It will be a good thing for Florida and a better thing for the speculators. We expect to embark for the interior to-morrow morning. Our objective point is Fort Mason, near the head waters of the Ocklawaha River. On my way down I fell in with a young man from Ohio who is full of fun, robust and active; he makes a first-rate body guard, and if I should happen to fall into the mouth of an alligator on our trip up the river, he would be just the fellow to pry his jaws open.

The six days that I have been here the mercury has stood as follows: December 8, 41°; December 9, 51°; December 10, 62°; December 11, 62°; December 12, 62°; to-day, 13, 73°; little too warm for woolen.

C. R. GILBERT.

FLORIDA.

A Perfect Paradise in Some Respects, but No Peace for a Lazy or a Shiftless Man.

Correspondence of the Blade.

GENEVA, Orange Co., Fla.,
Sanford P. O., Nov. 28, 1882.

I have resided at this point continuously for the past three years, and have had my eyes open, and have had the experience if not the ability to describe this country. Experience is the only teacher that can give you any conception of this climate. It is a land of perpetual Summer, a tropical climate, where people die from pampering tornados or epidemics, the home of the orange, lemon and lime, a land wherein the pineapple ripens all the year. Tomatos, strawberries and garden vegetables flourish throughout the Winter months—a tropical climate, with invariable cool nights and wherein, if not compelled to labor, you can wear your Winter dress all the year; a tropical climate, not infested with venomous insects or reptiles; a land that is one-half dense overgrowth swamps, hammocks and canebrakes with no malaria. Have I said enough? Believing all this you have but a faint conception of this climate. With this overhead you ask what is under foot? Sand, one vast heap of clean beach sand, white or gray on top with yellow subsoil—in some locations clay. Nothing that you wish to cultivate will grow without fertilizers, altho the whole country is densely wooded or covered with coarse wild grasses, upon which thousands of half wild cattle subsist all the year. The soil responds readily to fertilizers and it is marvelous with what rapidity things will grow. I have seen millet 11 feet in hight, with well filled heads 20 inches long. Let me say right here that a man that does not succeed in the North will surely fail here. Farming by Northern men in a tropical climate is as yet an experiment. That they will succeed and make Florida the Eden of old I firmly believe what we want here.

ARE SUCCESSFUL MEN,

men of means, and most of all, men of brains. Such men have made it pay as high as $1,000 per acre gardening and $300 to $500 in fruit. If one quarter the expense and labor usually expended on 100 acres at the North, was judiciously expended here on 10 the profit would be 10 times as much. You can not make a good selection as to location or soil without visiting the State. Three quarters of Florida is entirely worthless at present for any agricultural purposes. It consists of rivers, lakes, lagoons, prairies, low hummock and pine lands, that overflow in high water. The lands that one would be most likely to select for the best, are worthless, and it must be remembered that real estate agents are human. We located on our present site after five months prospecting, and as yet see no reason to change. We are by the St. John's River about 230 miles south of Jacksonville, and I would for special reasons advise every one not to go farther south or stop farther north. We are what is called below the frost line, although we have slight frosts some years.

WHAT ARE ORANGE AND LEMON GROVES WORTH?

We will not discuss that subject. A poor one you do not want, and few men have money enough to buy a good one. Wild lands with us will cost now from $10 to $25 per acre. It will cost from $25 to $75 to clear and fence land, and you may judge by that that something grows here if the poor beds sand. Budded orange and lemon trees cost from 50 to 75 cents each, and a planter will want from 50 to 70 per acre. The first year's cultivation, including commercial fertilizers, will cost about $12.50 per acre, and $5 per acre per year must be added to that for five years, when it ought to pay expenses and from that time yearly profits should go on increasing. Single trees have paid as high as $150 to $200 for the year.

GUAVAS

do no not grow wild, nor any fruit. The Guava is a species of fig. As yet they are not much cultivated but soon will be. They are the coming fruit for canning and jellying. Like the darkey's rabbit, they are good cooked any way. You can eat all you want of them once a day, or three times, and between meals, and they will not hurt you. They are easily digested, and retain their flavor canned equally with the fresh-cooked fruit. There are a great many varieties of them, easily cultivated, bearing in three years from the seed.

PINE APPLES

bear in one year from suckers, and two from plants. The cultivation of oranges, lemons, pine apples, guavas and market gardening will be the leading industries of this State. The right man here on two acres well located will make more clear profit than 10 ordinary farmers in your State; but remember what I tell you, he must be a practical man, a man of good judgment, or he will fail. This sand will swallow up all the money and labor injudiciously expended, and cry for more, and as it is human to believe that we each know best, I expect to witness many failures. To return to

THE CLIMATE.

Our thermometer rarely goes above 95°, and the yearly average is about 70°. I have known it at a given hour of the-day to vary but 2° in 28 days. In climate, Florida is a favored land. We have but very little thunder and lightning or high winds. We are but 15 miles from the Atlantic, can hear the roar of the surf, see the storm-tossed clouds, but never feel their force. Our dry season is in the Winter, rainy in July and August. The rainy season does not consist of disagreeable, cloudy days, but simply short, April showers in the afternoon, the pleasantest season of the year.

G. A. HEATH.

COLORADO.

What a Settler Thinks of the Agricultural Capabilities and Climate of the Gunnison Country.

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade.

If you will allow me the space in your paper I will endeavor to answer some of the many questions asked in regard to public lands in this part of Colorado. By a glance at the map you will see that we are located in the Western part, in the late "Ute Indian Reservation," which was opened for settlement a little more than a year ago. We are about the center of its great agricultural and grazing lands, and at the junction of the Uncompahgre River with the Gunnison. The Uncompahgre Valley is 60 miles long and three miles wide. The Gunnison Valley is about 40 miles long and three wide. About one-half of each valley is a sandy soil and the balance adobe. The past year was the first year of farming in the reservation, and it has proven beyond a doubt that all kinds of grain and vegetables can be grown equal to, if not superior, to any country in the United States and we might include the world. As to grazing and raising stock, no country in the United States is equal to it even with their fields of grain to fatten with, as this country has the advantage of sheep raising. There is no uncertainty here about raising crops. We don't have to waste time to pray for rain, but go and turn it on, and irrigate as much or as little as you like, and when you please, for we have an abundance of good water. We have it from the best of authority, that fruit will grow here equal to California. These lands come under the preemption laws, and cost $1.25 per acre. Good lands are yet to be had, and a good many who have taken claims can be bought out cheap. Prices here for produce and grain of all kinds will always be in advance of any Eastern State, as the mines and large Cities will consume all that can be raised in California. The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, running from Denver, runs through the Uncompahgre, Gunnison and Grand valleys. It is now finished to the Utah State line, and will be finished to Salt Lake next February. We have the finest climate in the world and can't be beat for health. The temperature in the valley is very even, no snow of consequence and no weather but what one can work every day of the year. Some of the grandest mountain scenery in Colorado can be seen in these parts. Plenty of game, bear, elk, deer, etc., and the streams are filled with salmon, trout, and other kinds of fish. A splendid country for the invalid, the tourist, the hunter, the miner, the farmer, and the stock man.

GEORGE MOODY.

Delta, Gunnison Co., Col.

KANSAS.

Kingman County, Its Soil and People—The Cowboy—Advancing Civilization.

Correspondence of the Toledo Blade.

KINGMAN, Kas., Dec. 15, 1882.

Kingman is a beautiful little Village, situated on the north bank of the Ne-Scah River. It has a population of about 300. It is the County-seat of Kingman County, and is about 35 miles from the nearest railroad point, which is Hutchinson. Although it is five or six years old, it really has done all of its growing within the last two years, and bids fair to make a flourishing town at some time in the near future. They are confident they will have a railroad soon, and then with their fine farming lands and large cattle interests they will surely prosper. Kingman has two large four-story flouring mills run by water power, furnished by the Ne-Neo-Scah River; two drug stores and a number of general stores where they sell anything you want in any line. They also have a good school, and have a large hall which is used for church, court, shows, and all other purposes in that line. A great many cattlemen have their families here and herd their cattle south of Kingman, or in the Territory. Here you will also find the

IRREPRESSIBLE COWBOY,

with his leather leggings, his two six-shooters, his large silver spurs and his wild, dare-devil look. While these boys are sober, a better class of people don't exist, but let them take their "tarantula juice," as they call it, (meaning whisky) then there is liable to be trouble. They take a delight in riding up and down the street, shooting at anything they see, although that thing is rarely witnessed now, as they are becoming more civilized. Your correspondent went to a dance here, or, rather, as they call it, a "round up," and the man that can pound the floor the hardest is the best man. They all go in for a big time, and by the time the dance is over they are nearly all full of whisky. Although this is a Prohibition State, it don't prohibit the sale of whisky to any great extent. Altho people in the East think this is a hard country, they would be surprised to visit it once and see

THE SIGNS OF CIVILIZATION

everywhere. The country is mostly settled by people who have been in business in the East and have broken up and come West in hope of bettering their condition in life.

Go in almost any house and you will find some kind of a musical instrument. Most of the people have pianos or organs, and there are a great many of them who are fine performers. And I will say farther in regard to the people of Kansas, that there are more smart, go-ahead people in Kansas according to her population than any other State in the Union. M.

East Tennessee.

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade:

The Congressional contest in the Second District of Tennessee resulted in the election of Judge Houk, by a majority of 5,714 votes. While a large majority of the Republicans in the District are pleased with the result, no disposition is manifested by them to exalt over the defeat of Capt. Rule, who was a gallant Federal soldier, is a stanch Republican and a gentleman of untarnished private character. The party discords which have existed for some time have all been healed, and a big hand shaking is going on over the bloody chasm. The *Chronicle* and *Republican* have been merged, and is now the *Republican-Chronicle*. In parting with the *Republican* Capt. Rule pockets the snug little sum of $16,000. The turn which affairs have taken in this District does not enhance the joys of the aspiring Bourbon by a large majority.

The Memphis *Ledger* waileth thusly: "Michigan, Iowa, Kansas, all New England and all the South might go Democratic, but East Tennessee, never."

The fascinating letters of our exiled Parson, low price and neat appearance is enough to recommend the BLADE to everybody. W. M. CLARK.

Tevinville, Tenn., Dec. 23.

Comets' Tails.

To the Editor of the Toledo Blade:

In the BLADE of Nov. 9th the question was asked, "What causes the comet's tail?" and for an answer you said, "That's what puzzles the astronomers." Now, I'm no astronomer, and perhaps that is why I am not puzzled. But ever since I saw the first comet I have noticed that the tail is directly from the sun, and that the nearer to the sun it is the broader its tail, and *vice versa*. Hence, it is clear to my mind that the sun has something to do with shaping the comet's tail—that its tail is its own shadow, so to speak; that were it not for the light of the sun there would be a halo of light similar to the tail all around the nucleus or head. T. C. OSBURN.

Vanatta, O., Dec. 11, 1882.

TEXAS.

A Permanent School Fund of Nearly $115,000,000.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 22.—The annual report of the State Treasurer of Texas makes the following extraordinary showing: Cash in the Treasury, $1,770,180; bonds, $4,427,510. The permanent free school fund of the State consists of $492,130 cash; five per cent. bonds, $219,468; six per cent. bonds, $1,277,807; seven per cent. bonds, $230,000; railroad bond, $1,753,317. In addition to the above, the schools own 20,000,000 acres of land valued at $45,000,000, but the price of this land is certain to be raised by the next Legislature to $3 and $5 per acre, making the aggregate value about $110,000,000, swelling the permanent school fund, which can never be disbursed, to the magnificent sum of $115,176,-382.

The Youth's Companion

of Boston, is a sprightly, entertaining paper, deservedly popular, and is without exception, the best of its kind published in America. It is filled to overflowing with the choicest original matter, of so diversified a character that it never fails to interest, instruct and amuse, and is welcomed in the household by young and old alike.

The Daily Record.

Dates of Important Events, as Telegraphed to the Daily Blade.

News Gathered from All Quarters of the World in 1882.

JANUARY.

3.—Fall of a hall at Shaneville, O., 100 persons killed and wounded; Guiteau's trial resumed.

4.—Arrival of Oscar Wilde; star route cases taken up.

5.—Gen. Grant espouses the cause of Fitz John Porter; Postmaster-General James' resignation.

7.—Whitelaw Reid on the Garfield Administration.

7.—Fall of a brick wall at Syracuse, 20 men killed; fire-damp explosion at Mauch Chunk; Gov. Foster's inauguration.

12.—News of the loss of the Jeannette.

14.—Fire at Galveston; railroad accident at Spuyten Duyvel; the Ashland murderers indicted.

19.—Floods in the South; spread of the smallpox.

23.—Verdict of guilty in the Guiteau case.

31.—Newspaper Row, New York, burned out.

FEBRUARY.

3.—Guiteau sentenced; hotel burned at Nashville; gas explosion in a Virginia coal mine, 32 men buried alive.

6.—Heavy snow storms.

7.—Sullivan-Ryan prize fight, won by Sullivan in 26 minutes.

10.—Flight of Mayor Navin, of Adrian, Mich.; the Soteldo tragedy.

16.—Steamer Bahama lost at sea.

17.—Explosion in the pyrotechnic works at Chester, Pa., Mrs. Scoville's letter to Mrs. Garfield.

18.—Destructive fire at Haverhill, Mass.; the Shipherd scandal.

20.—Great floods on the Mississippi; Rev. Mr. Miln repudiated by his congregation; star route indictments.

21.—The Skobeloff sensation; storms and floods.

22.—Citizens' ticket elected in Philadelphia.

23.—Bradlaugh expelled; Jewish refugees arrive in Philadelphia.

27.—Blaine's eulogy on the life and character of Garfield, to which Gen. Rosecrans takes exceptions.

28.—Beecher's new departure.

MARCH.

2.—Attempt to assassinate Queen Victoria.

6.—Ex-Sen. Conkling, after being confirmed as Justice of the United States Supreme Court, declines the honor.

7.—Floods everywhere in the South; Sen. Edmunds declines the appointment on the Supreme Bench.

10.—Provisions of the China bill; star routers give bail.

11.—Sentence in the Mason case.

13.—Troops ordered to Omaha to put down strikers; Blatchford nominated for the Supreme Court Bench.

14.—One hundred and fifty miners imprisoned in a colliery in England; strike in Pennsylvania.

15.—Beginning of the Shipherd investigation; passage of the Utah bill.

18.—Strike of 4,000 miners and 3,000 canal men in Maryland.

20.—Starvation in the South, owing to the floods; snow storms.

23.—Terrible railroad accident near Bismarck.

24.—Death of Henry W. Longfellow.

30.—Loss of the Golden City, at Memphis.

31.—Passage of the Pond bill by the Ohio Legislature.

APRIL.

1.—Surrender of Dick Little, the Missouri train robber.

3.—Insane Asylum at Yankton burned; suicide of C. J. Vanderbilt.

4.—Veto of the Chinese bill; Spring elections; Jesse James killed; loss of the steamship Bouro; strike of 3,000 Pennsylvania miners.

6.—Teller nominated for Secretary of the Interior, Chandler for Secretary of the Navy, and Hunt as Minister to Russia.

7.—Cyclones in Michigan and Kansas; St. Xavier's Catholic Church, Cincinnati, burned.

8.—Boiler explosion at Laerosse; cyclone in Kansas.

10.—New comet; testing the Pond law.

13.—Furious storm in Arkansas; bribery investigation in the Ohio Legislature; Parnell in prison.

13.—The Slater fund; Howgate's escape.

15.—The Sunday law passed by the Ohio Legislature.

17.—Brilliant display of the aurora borealis; the Fitz John Porter case, opinion of the Attorney General; A. T. Stewart & Co. to close up business; Ohio redistricted.

19.—Storm in Missouri; President's message concerning the Peace Congress.

20.—Indictments in South Carolina for obstructing elections; Indian outbreak at San Carlos; Alphonso Taft Minister to Austria.

21.—Tornado in Pennsylvania.

24.—Blaine before the Forein Relations Committe; Monticello, Miss., destroyed by a tornado.

25.—Indian barbarities.

27.—Blaine and Belmont.

28.—Execution of Dr. Lamison; death of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

29.—Chalmers bounced and Lynch sworn in.

MAY.

1.—New York Socialists not permitted to parade; infernal machine sent to Vanderbilt; suspects released in Ireland.

3.—Parnell, Dillon and O'Kelly released.

5.—The Morey letter traced to H. H. Hadley.

6.—Destructive fire at Racine, Wis; De-Long and party found; hail storm in Kansas and Missouri.

8.—Assassination of Cavendish and Burke.

10.—Terrible storm in Kansas and Texas; strike of rolling mill men at Cleveland; O'Donovan Rossa justifies assassination.

11.—Army reunion in St. Louis; Republican Convention in Pennsylvania.

15.—Floods in Arkansas; death of Hon. C. C. Washburn.

17.—Dorsey gives bail; woman suffrage defeated in New York; Shipherd discharged.

18.—The eclipse of the sun in Upper Egypt.

19.—Wholesale evictions in Ireland.

20.—Guiteau issues a "card;" the Mally trial.

23.—Snow storm in Iowa; tornado in Arkansas.

24.—Lively time in Congress over contested elections.

25.—Pennsylvania Independents nominate a ticket; distillers and liquor dealers organize.

26.—Tariff Commissioners appointed; England and France notify the Egyptian Ministry; the great strike in iron mills.

27.—Democratic filibusters; no quorum in the House.

29.—Arrival of the Jeannette survivors in New York; surrender of Frank James; anarchy in Egypt; divorce granted Mrs. Gov. Sprague.

30.—The Ohio liquor law declared unconstitutional; Republicans secure a quorum in the House; wild scenes; the Khedive threatened.

JUNE.

1.—English war vessels sent to Alexandria; 1,200 men strike in Chicago.

2.—Heavy gales; schooner Industry wrecked.

7.—Ohio Republican Convention; Oregon carried by the Republicans.

12.—Starvation in Virginia; riot in Alexandria, Egypt.

13.—Europeans leaving Egypt; the Khedive takes refuge under the guns of the fleet.

14.—Riot in Cleveland; reign of terror at Alexandria; flood in Indianapolis; Republican Convention in Maine.

15.—Prize fight between Maloney and Weeden; Army of the Cumberland reunion at Detroit.

19.—Michael Davitt in New York; terrible tornados in Iowa and Kansas.

20.—Republican Convention in Pennsylvania.

22.—Loss of the relief ship Rodgers.

24.—The civil service question; Hubbell and Curtis; the Cabinet decides that Guiteau must hang; great strike of freight handlers.

28.—Storms in Iowa; Engineer Mellville tells of DeLong's fate.

29.—Accident on the New Jersey Road, 100 persons injured; flood in Kentucky; prize fight between Waiters and Campbell.

30.—Execution of Guiteau.

JULY.

1.—Home Rulers suspended; Harvard beats Yale, second best time on record; the Malleys discharged.

3.—Death of the Ohio giant; Guiteau buried.

5.—Bibbers swims the East river tied hand and foot; collision on the Ohio river, 50 lives lost.

6.—Sullivan-Elliott fight; tornado in Kansas; Hillsdales ruled out; war in Egypt.

11.—Bombardment of Alexandria.

13.—Alexandria fired and evacuated.

15.—Texarkana nearly destroyed by fire.

17.—English troops in Alexandria.

20.—Ohio Democratic Convention; funeral of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

21.—Arabi issues a proclamation.

27.—Alexandria on fire; great suffering in Alaska; forest fires in Michigan.

AUGUST.

2.—River and Harbor bill passed over the President's veto; Indiana Democratic Convention; floods in Kentucky.

3.—Iowa Republican Convention; Democratic Convention in Indiana; English troops occupy Suez; Ladies' Land League of Dublin dissolved.

4.—Milwaukee flooded; yellow fever in Texas; strike of the Irish Constabulary.

5.—Trouble in Indian Territory; terrible accident in Oil City.

7.—Boiler explosion on the steamer Golddust, 24 killed and 48 wounded; terific storms.

10.—Arabi declared a rebel; Republican Convention in Kansas.

12.—Outbreak of Apaches in Arizona; Meany arrested in Ireland; fire in Quebec.

15.—Corn famine in Nicaragua; Gov. Sprague defies the authorities; Gen. Wolseley arrives in Alexandria.

17.—The Scovilles in Court at Chicago; insurrection in Cores; King and Queen assassinated.

18.—Santa Claus wins the $4,000 stallion race at Rochester.

19.—Ben Butler nominated for Governor by Massachusetts Greenbackers; Apaches on the war path; labor strikes.

21.—Port Said occupied by the British; funeral of Sen. Hill; great storm in Texas; return of the steamer Eira; first general

The Household.

Edited by Miss Emily S. Bouton.

CORRESPONDENTS writing for this department will please observe the following rules:

1. Write "Household Department" on the envelope.
2. Give real name and Postoffice address—not for publication, unless you wish—but for reference in case it is necessary to address you by mail.
3. Write only on one side of the paper; write plainly as possible, and do not interline.
4. Be as brief as the nature of the subject will allow.

HEALTH AND BEAUTY.

VI.

THE NEXT STEP.

When this soft pulpy mass gets down into the stomach, then the real work of digestion begins. You can only help now indirectly in ways of which I will tell you by and by, but if you have masticated thorely, this indefatigable worker will take the ball kindly if it suits his taste, but patiently under all circumstances, and at it he goes to see what can be done with it. You remember that it is now shut in by the closing of the cardiac arifice thru which it entered, and of the pyloric orifice thru which it must go out. The latter remains obstinately closed until the work is properly done and the transformed food is ready for its journey onward.

The very first thing the stomach does is to call the blood from all parts of the body in order to get sufficient heat to set the "pot a boiling." In other words, the temperature must be raised to 98 degrees Fahrenheit, so that the active agent in this first real process of digestion, the gastric juice, may exert its solvent power upon the food. This is the reason why nothing should be done immediately after eating which will take the blood away from the stomach. A bath, which calls it to the surface, or mental exertion, that summons it to the brain, or physical labor, which sends it to the extremities, all hinder digestion by preventing the necessary accumulation of heat in the bag. It is a good deal like putting cake in to bake and then turning the drafts of the stove so as to shut the fire all away from the oven. But of this more anon.

What is the gastric juice, do you ask? The stomach like all the other cavities of the body is lined with a mucous membrane, and this is as full as full can be of small glands so close together as only to leave spaces between them for the tiny capillary blood vessels. These glands make the surface look full of ridges and projections of different sizes and shapes, but all are for the purpose of secreting this fluid. Just as soon as the food enters from the asophagus it stimulates them to work and they immediately begin to pour out the gastric juice in quantities which seem astonishing, and continue to do so as long as there remains anything in the stomach to be dissolved. When digestion is over, it ceases to flow.

This is an acid fluid, clear and colorless. Beside the acid, the most important ingredient it contains is a substance called "pepsine." Then there is some salt, a little lime, magnesia and iron. Once it was considered such a universal, as well as powerful solvent, that nothing could resist its action, but later experiments show that it makes no chemical change upon starch or oil. These are simply melted by the heat, and pass on their way to meet their fate elsewhere. There is one curious property about gastric juice that is worthy of notice, and that is its lack of inclination to putrefy. It is said that it will keep for months in a glass stoppered bottle and no odor or appearance of decay be visible.

Another beautiful provision of Nature is the way in which every part of the food is brought under the action of this fluid. If the stomach remained perfectly quiet, some portion might not be subjected to its influence, but the muscular coat begins to contract and relax, producing a sort of churning motion that tosses and tumbles its contents from one side to the other, not violently, but in a gentle sort of a way, and causes all of the food to be penetrated by the digestive fluid. When this is done it has become a grayish looking paste that passes through the pyloric orifice into the small intestine. This paste is called "chyme" and until substances are thus changed they are not allowed to go on their journey.

Right here is an interesting fact to notice, and that is concerning the quantity of gastric juice which is secreted. It seems astounding, but it is estimated that in a man of medium size it is about 14 pounds daily. Only think of it. All of this material does not pass on with the chyme, but when it has got through mixing the mass, it is reabsorbed with that part of the food which it has thoroly digested and reduced to a fluid form.

Before following the process of digestion any farther, I want to impress upon my readers a few simple laws which are necessary to be obeyed in order that the work of the stomach may be well done. I have already said enough about the necessity of thoro mastication so that the food may be in a proper condition for the gastric juice to act upon it. It is also extremely necessary that it should be heated to a proper temperature, which is, as said before, 98 degrees. Then the action is most energetic. If it is one-quarter of a degree less the process cannot proceed. The blood, therefore, should be allowed to go thither and remain until the first hard work is done, so that the required heat may be obtained. From half an hour to an hour should be allowed to elapse before engaging in active work of any kind, otherwise the blood will be called away from its duty. No one of you would be so foolish as to put potatos over to boil and then extinguish the fire before they were half done, trusting to luck that they would come out all right. But this is just the sort of thing you do—only it is infinitely more foolish because the consequences involved are so much more serious—every time you go to work immediately after eating. You disobey a law of nature, and blotically expect that no harm will come of it. For the same reason you should not summon the blood away from its duty by bathing soon after a meal. In that case its sudden departure from the surface causes such a shock to the system that convulsions have been known to follow. Two hours is none too long a time to give to the cooking of the food by the stomach before putting out the fire in this way. Let mothers remember this, not only in regard to themselves, but their children. Ignorance in this respect often lays the foundation of life-long digestive disorders, if it does not produce immediate and violent effects.

Already I hear some of you say "it is impossible for me to rest a half hour after breakfast, dinner and supper. My work would drag all day." Suppose it did. Which is worse, disease which saps every pleasure in life, or a little delay in doing what is not of crying importance to be accomplished to the minute? But there would in reality be no dragging. There are always little things which require no exertion, to be done, if you feel that you *must* absolutely be at work every moment, and the rest would only enable you to work the faster afterwards.

You all know that it would be dangerous to your horse to let him eat a hearty meal of oats and then start him out on the road on the instant to work or run as the case might be. Isn't your stomach of as much importance as that of your horse?

Another thing in regard to the temperature of the stomach. The very fact of its being necessary to have it heated to 98 degrees in order to work well shows the danger of emptying into it a quantity of cold fluid as many people do while eating or soon after, thus suddenly reducing the heat already obtained. This subject will, however, come up again in the future.

Fancy Work and House Decorations.

A Handsome Bed Comfort.—Materials required, 16 yards of "Oscar Wilde," or other dark, handsome print, divided into six breadths of equal length, four cotton balls and one ounce of garnet Germantown yarn; three breadths form the outside, and the same for lining. After sewing them together, frame the lining, and spread on the cotton, remembering to make the center a little fuller than the edges; pin the outside over this, at the edges, and with a large needle and double Germantown wool or zephyr, commence the tufting. If the figures are not a sufficient guide, mark off squares of about three inches each, and tie a firm knot at each corner of the squares, leaving about half an inch of the wool for tufts at each tie. "Oscar Wilde" prints represent him dressed in bronze and peacock blue, with a calla lily in his hand and the other on his breast, and a countenance expressive of the most intense admiration and enjoyment of the scene. Mrs. Langtry, with esthetic dress and downcast looks, with a dairy utensil in her hand, is by his side. The magnificent sunflower flourishes at his right hand, and a great profusion of most gorgeous flowers are scattered around over the background of dark color. The music of the harp and guitar in the hands of flower-crowned maidens, in esthetic toilet, adds a charm to the scene. All this magnificence at nine cents a yard at a Buffalo drygoods store.—L. RANSOM, Randall Road, N. Y.

Rick Rack with Point-Lace Meshes.—Procure fine rick rack or serpentine braid and linen thread of good quality—not too fine—fasten the thread to the end of the braid, commencing at the left, with the braid on the upper side. Insert the needle in the next point from the under side and draw up the thread quite close. Draw the thread thro the mesh thus formed again to form a twisted mesh. Repeat until a sufficient number of points are taken up to make a circle of the required size. Join the row of meshes inside the circle and cord the inside edge of the row of meshes, by sewing over the edge one stitch in each mesh. This is point de Espagne in real French point. The center may be left open, or crossed with threads at equal distances, in the form of a wheel and by darning around the center, where the threads cross a handsome dot may be formed. If the space is large a spider's web with a tiny dot is handsome. Make the web of regular graduated threads sewed once around each crossing thread, with the point of the needle always to the left, inside of the thread that twines around the center toward the right.

Having now completed this circle, turn the work over and commence at a point about one-fourth of the distance around the circle, on the outside of the completed circle, to take up the points for another circle, remembering not to draw up the thread too closely until you reach the braid, that is left loose. Take up the same number of points and proceed as before. If made correctly it forms a straight lace consisting of two rows of rosettes, the outside of one rosette or circle forming about one-fourth of the inside of the next rosette. The braid is not cut but winds around back and forth until a strip is completed. It may be made a little wider and more elegant by joining one edge to a straight piece of the braid and working two brides in Venetian point, with a round picot on each, in the triangular space, between each rosette and the edge, and finishing the scalloped edge with Limoges or Venetian point, two handsome hand-wrought edges.

The description for these edges is entirely too long to be published. Ladies who wish to learn stitches used in real lace will do well to enquire at embroidery stores. They are sometimes made into "samplers," with a large variety of meshes, edges, real brides, picots, welts, cross stitches, etc., at different prices, according to the variety of stitches, from 25 cents to $1, I believe, but cannot tell the prices in different establishments. They are usually made of coarse thread so that there is no difficulty in learning them and they are invaluable for future reference as one often forgets a particular mesh. —L. RANSOM, Randall Road, May County, N. Y.

Wristlets.—If E. J. Howell wishes pretty and serviceable wristlets or mittens, they can be made as follows: Knit four, seam 1, around the fingers, and then fifth time; after the seam stitch take 2 stitches off on hairpin or needle; knit next 2, then knit those that have been put on the hairpin; seam 1 and repeat once around, then 5 times, 4 plain, 1 seam. For real service knit whole mitten in this way; for prettier, knit fronts plain; about 3 of the twisted stripes in the back, and shell-work on each side; and for the wrists, wristlets made in this way, finished with scallops, are pretty. Zephyr or Saxony yarn should be used for this kind of work.

Please try. Mittens made in this way can be mended and not show at all unless very closely examined.—LOU NETTLETON.

Coal Iron Holders.—Make a set of three in brown linen, lined in scarlet with a loop to hang them up. With a bit of tracing paper mark a large letter on top, and work it in red cotton. These cases can be slipt off the quilted centers and washed when necessary.—M. B.

Edging.—1st row—K 1—o—n—k 1—o—k 1—o—n—k 1—o—n—k 1—o—n—k 1—o—n—k 1—o—8 times—k 2, 2d row—K 3—p 1—k 3—p 1—k 2—p 1—k 2—p 1—k 2—p 1—k 2—p 1—k 2—p 1—k 3. 3d row—K 3—o—n—k 2—o—n—k 1—o—n—k 1—o—n—k 1—o—n—k 1—o—n—o—n—k 6. 4th row—K 7—p 1—k 1—p 1—k 3—p 1—k 2—p 1—k 2—p 1—k 3—p 1—k 3. 5th row—K 3—o—n—o—n—k 1—o—n—k 1—o—n—k 1—o—n—k 2—o—n—k 6. 6th row—Cast off 5—k 5—p 1—k 3—p 1—k 2—p 1—k 2—p 1—k 2—p 1—k 1—p 1—k 3. Repeat from first row.

Expressions of Opinion.

I have a proposition to make. Suppose the ladies who want to vote and the gentlemen who think cooking is so easy, trade positions and also clothes, and see if it is any easier than the places God has given them. I, for one, don't want to trade, for I would rather eat "good, clean" cooking.—RUTH E. BEACHMIN, Windfield, Lincoln Co., Mo.

I was interested in "Zenobia's" letter very much. We Western farmers would like to step in and spend these long evenings with them. That is just the class of young ladies every one admires.

Now just a little advice to the young men readers of the BLADE. Young men keep your brain free from the poison of alcohol, keep your mouth free from the filthy tobacco weed, let there be no deceit in your heart, and you will lead a noble life.—J. H. ARMSTRONG, Westerville, Custer County, Neb.

I want a little advice. I concluded schoolteaching was not my forte and have left school, but would like to learn a trade or do something for myself so that I need not depend on my parents for everything I want. Perhaps some of you can give me a few words of advice on the matter. I would like to correspond with some one in Nebraska or who has been there. As our folks are thinking of going out there to live, I would like to find out what the chances are for a girl with a fair education, and not afraid of work. Wonder why there could not be more traveling saleswomen as well as salesmen? I know of but one. Will the editor, or some one please tell me does a reporter's passport have to be signed by an officer of the railroad before it can be used? To any one who may write, address BONNY NELL, care of THE HOUSEHOLD.

A pass to be of use must *always* be signed by some officer of the road.—ED.

Now, I want to say a word to the girls about widowers who have children to bring up. Don't do it, girls, no, never, for if you do you will always regret it. I know there are a few who have married widowers with children who are determined no one shall know they made a bad bargain, and they will tell you they "get along nicely with the children," but I do not believe them. Down deep in their hearts are troubles hid away from the world, that none but their most intimate friends ever know. I would advise you girls to be very careful who you marry. Be sure you are well acquainted with the man before you say yes, for so many of them are deceitful, and will make you believe they are worth more than they are. I knew a poor, unsuspecting girl who married a man who claimed to be from Texas, and as soon as they were married they started for Texas, as he said, but when they reached St. Louis he got all her money, and she never heard of him afterwards.—FADED BELLE.

I would like to hear from more teachers in regard to their methods of preventing tardiness and absence, and how to teach history, reading and grammar. Should bookkeeping be taught in the common schools? If so, which is the best way to teach it? Should Civil Government be taught to small children? There was a question asked in THE HOUSEHOLD a short time ago, as to whether teachers should stand upon their feet all day? I say no, for in so doing they ruin their health and do not better the condition of their schools a particle. I would like to ask if it would not be better for the common schools at large if spelling were not neglected so much? I would like to hear from the teachers upon these subjects.—J. F. WISNER, Fremont, Dodge Co., Neb.

"William" is a sensible fellow. I can see no necessity for a lady dressing in her best every time a gentleman calls to see her, as though it would make her any better than she really was. When I have a few minutes to spend with company, I spend it talking, and not in dressing. Sometimes I think it would be best (if near the engagement time) that both lady and gentleman should see each other in every-day dress to know what they are. Fine clothes flatter some people, and often deceive, making them appear quite different from what they are. Fine feathers don't always make fine birds.—WITTY, West Middleton, Pa.

Sometimes a lady or gentleman cannot find a companion in the neighborhood where they live. Now, what will they do; live and die a single life, or try to get acquainted with a stranger by corresponding? In the country, where I live, the fair sex are scarce, and therefore I am writing to lady friends, some I never saw, and some day I will find me a companion to travel with me through the rough journey of life. I would like to hear from the HOUSEHOLD on this subject.—COUNTRY FARMER.

Correspondence.

A PLEA FOR THE BROTHERS.—Come sit with me this evening, by the cosy fire. Bring your knitting, girls, for we can talk better if our fingers are busy, and Christmas is coming so fast that we must hurry to get the hoods and mittens, scarfs and slippers finished in time. Now, girls, I want to whisper something to you: When you are making out your list of gifts be sure to think of your big brother among the first. It hurts me so to see some girls so careless about pleasing their brothers. They will lounge round home, looking like a fury, never thinking it worth while to tidy up if only the boys are there. But let Tom Smith or Harry Brown call, and presto change! The old wrapper is exchanged for the stylish suit and the glum countenance is wreathed in bright smiles. Does brother Fred want Milly to do him a favor or sing him a song? Well, maybe she will do it if it suits her, but he cannot but see that she is bered. Now, girls, treat your brothers just as well or a little bit better than any gentleman you know, and my word for it they will pay you back in your own coin. Never break an engagement with them, more readily than you would with any one else, consoling yourselves with the thought that they won't care. They do care, more than you can think. And if you make home pleasant they'll be much more likely to stay there, and thus avoid many of the snares which beset a young man's pathway.

I know whereof I speak, for I have a brother who is all the world to me, and I know that my efforts to make home attractive, and by showing him that he is more to me than strangers, have had a great influence in molding his character; while other young men have said to me, "My sisters don't care to go with me if they can have other escorts" Don't let your brothers echo this plaint.

"Alfred," you don't deserve a wife such as you call for. You couldn't appreciate such an one. I fear too late she would find that

"She was mated with a clown,
And the grossness of your nature would have weight to drag her down."

Better stay with your mother, she, poor long-suffering woman, will have more patience with your exactions than any one else.

"Mrs. Galpin," I want to shake hands. If I don't like you as a match-maker I do echo all you say on the political question. Truly there is no depth to which the Democrat will not descend in order to score a point. At the recent jollification in Gettysburg, our famous historic town, whose name is immortalized and whose ground is hollowed by the great battle, the turning point of the rebellion, and the last place on the face of the earth where a brave Union soldier should be insulted, there in the very shadow of the great monument that stands in the midst of the bivouac of his brave comrades who gave their lives that the Union might not perish, and through the streets that but 19 years ago ran red with patriotic blood, they dragged the effigy of Gen. Beaver, the defeated candidate for Governor of the Republican party, suspended from a gallows, and reviled and insulted in every possible way. Actions are more emphatic than words. What will they do if they hold the reins of Government.

"Zenobia," may heaven bless you. I'd like to meet you in person. Come again with your words of cheer. If I may come again I'll tell you of my school work, so now, good night.—COUSIN ALICE, Adams County, Pa.

WAS IT DECEIT?—I do not suppose it will soothe the wounded feelings of "B. L. Jebbub" to know that his letter was a source of amusement to one of the readers thereof; perchance because of something which happened in the long ago, of which more anon.

You haven't a happy way of expressing yourself, have you, "Jebbub," (I think we'll call you "Bub," for short) in your attempt to compliment the ladies? think your trouble arises from a misunderstanding on your part, either of the motives of the ladies or of the meaning of the word "deceitful. I do not blame your friends for feeling offended. I hardly think I could ever bring myself to feel complimented by being called deceitful, unless I was sure the would-be-complimenter meant something far different from that his words conveyed. Allow me to suggest that which you think deceitful in your lady friends is something else entirely, and—will you forgive me for saying it?—you insult them when you call it that.

But I can illustrate what I mean better by telling you, as I intimated before, of an incident of the past: An old lady, not the most agreeable and pleasantest old lady in the world, often visited at the home of one of her young relatives, whose wife had been taught to respect old age whether in an agreeable form or not, and also, that everybody is entitled to some measure of politeness and consideration from everybody else. So when her husband's aged relative visited them she felt it her duty to make them welcome and do all she could to make her visit a pleasant one. The old lady she knew did not lead a very happy life, had many things to vex her and cause her trouble, and from the kindness of her heart she wanted to make her happy if she could, while she was her guest, though aside from adding a mite to the happiness of another the visit had no pleasure for her.

One day after one of these visits another lady, also a relative, said to her during a conversation they were having, that she was deceitful—hypocritical was the word used, I think, but it meant the same thing. Now she was much surprised at this, for though she knew her sins and faults were many, she had never classed deceitfulness or hypocrasy in the list, so she anxiously inquired why her friend thought so. You may imagine her surprise if you can when she was answered: "Because, when M—— comes to see you, you take such great pains for her that she thinks you love her a great deal, when you know you do not care any more for her than the rest of us do."

She tried to explain that her motive was not to make the old lady think she loved her better than she did, but that she considered it her duty to be courteous and to to do whatever she could make a guest happy.

But, "Bub," I am glad you wrote that letter, for, after all these years, it has just occurred to me that that friend intended a compliment, though I did not think so at the time.

"William," perhaps you may find the solution of your problem in "Bub's" letter. Perhaps the ladies take that way of sparing your feelings, and their own. Mind you, I do not say such is the case. I only hint it.

To the sister who thinks poverty a disgrace, or is tempted to think it is, I would say it is not poverty, but sickness, that is the disgrace. I am glad our editor is giving us some lessons in this direction. There is need enough for us to learn.

I notice a recipe in the last BLADE which calls for the use of wine. Shall that cursed thing never be banished from our tables? Friends of the HOUSEHOLD, I entreat you all, now and hereafter, to banish alcohol in all its forms from your tables and your homes, and to do all in your power to procure its banishment from the homes of others, nor rest until our country shall be freed from its thraldom. Oh, slavery worse than that of the South! Oh, curse worse than that of Mormonism! How long shall we endure thee!—WIFE OF A GOOD HUSBAND.

KNITTING AND WASHING.—I see A. E. Harding and others wish some information about the terms used in knitting. I will try to give it, by supposing you have a row to knit, thus: K (knit) 3, m (make) 1, k (knit) 2, p (purl) 1, n (narrow), p (purl) 2, k (knit) 3, m (make) 1, n (narrow), k (knit) 4. Proceed thus: K 3 plain garter stiches, m 1 (to do that bring thread in front of needle), k 2; you will see you have made a stitch and your thread will be back in its place; p 1, thus, bring thread forward and put the needle into the stitch the contrary way, that is, the point toward your left instead of pointing from you the usual way. Now put thread over, not under, the needle. Take the stitch off backward. Put thread back, N, by taking two stitches on needle and knit off as one. P 2, k 3, m 1, n, k 4. I think you will soon see it. The purl is known to stocking-knitters as seam-stitch, and the back rows of stocking heels are all seam (or purl) stieth.

I want to say, if you please, that in directions for my bed-spread last week the full stop should have been at the word pattern, not border.

I would like to tell some of the overworked, never properly rested readers of THE HOUSEHOLD, how we do our washing. It is so very easy, at the same time effective, and so quickly done too. We put on the boiler as soon as the stove is done with for breakfast; then we take a little water, cold, or warm, as it happens, and wring all our dirty white clothes through it; then lay them, piece by piece on a table or board and scour the soiled places. By that time the water in the boiler is pretty hot. We put into it some soap, if rain water, nothing else; if hard water, anything you like. I use a little plain salsoda. I make a good suds. When it is nearly scalding hot, I put my best, or white clothes in and stir them well into the water, cover up and let them boil a quarter of an hour or a little longer, then we get two tubs with cold water ready, and go and sit down, or do our other work. The clothes are being washed.

When boiled enough, we put them from the boiler into one of the tubs of cold water, stir them around a little, then take the washboard and look for the dirty places. We don't often find many; we wash them well through that water and put them into the other tub. We let them lay there a few minutes, then wring them out of that, and rinse them through another water, blue or not, as it happens, and hang them out.

When we take the first boil out we add a little more water and soap and put in the second boil. The water after the first boil is of course the cleanest, and in that we wash the best of our cotton clothes or woolen goods. I use plenty of water. As it gets thick I have fresh. Sisters, do try this way; we have washed no other way for a long, long time. I would not give a dump for all the washing machines made. Don't be afraid, your wash will come out as nice as anybody's. But I forgot to say, when I have stained articles, I gather the stained parts together and soak them a little while in cold water, with a little saleratus in it. If any one has faith enough to try this, I hope she will report, for the encouragement of others. I know the report will be favorable.—F. H. P., Eskridge, Wahaunsee, Kan.

DECEIT.—I think "B. L. Jebbub" is anxious to raise a commotion. Certainly that lady will be more admired who will with a mildness born of true refinement, (and which need be none the less firm because of its mildness) state her views of whatever may happen to be under discussion, than she who rudely and boisterously declares the same thing. The false show of interest in an unwelcome caller might be interpreted into an unselfish desire to make happy even those unloved.

Can it be possible, that the pinnacle of honor upon which our best loved and most highly respected women stand before the world has for its foundation only deceit, while man, only because he is not capable of anything else, rests on a firmer stand because there is a little truth mixed with the deceit? The airy conventionalities of polite society which may mean anything or nothing, and seem to do much toward smoothing the rugged edges in high life are certainly to be condemned.

To go farther: What is truth: I do not believe that such a thing as absolute truth exists. I would like very much to hear opinions on this subject.

Here is a new method for writing music. I believe it is English notation. Will some one please tell us something about it?—ANNA.

GUM CHEWING.—As the question has been asked "What do you think Chewing Gum?" let me put in my plea and thereby end the subject:

To chew or not to chew—
That's the question.
Whether it is better to suffer an aching jaw,
And by a continuous chewing
Make our jaws feel some of the aches
The rest of the body is heir to;
Or by one decided effort—throw out the cud,
And end all these jaw aches—
Aye, that's the rub.
Now, if it's a woman that chews the thing is changed,
For by the continual wagging
Of a woman's jaw, the ache is overcome
And she can chew,
For now the flesh has lost its ills.
Her jaw will wag no slower (and no shorter) "a coat is on it, *vice versa*—
I'll recommend to quit; but when
My Friend has been tongue-lashed,
Then give the jaws a resting while on gum,
And not by actions quick cause paralysis,
And in kleptomaniac actions convey to
Thy pretty mouth, bits of straw and wood.
(These are the actions of the refined tobacco chewer), and, like Guiteau, be inspired,
And end this life by an ignominious death,
And leave to thy posterity—a cud of gum.

—BLANK VERSE, Laymont.

WHY NOT?—Noticing a recent letter in the BLADE concerning "Women who support themselves," I can remain silent no longer. Why should not women support themselves? Why not have ambition just as high, thoughts as deep, and ideas as sublime as men? Ah! one says she is advocating "woman's rights." Truly I only exhort them to develop and enjoy more fully the rights and privileges that they already have. May I not assert that half at least, of the misery and unhappiness at home, is the result of wives and daughters not thinking properly? The prevailing thought with the most of mothers (especially in this part of the country) appears to be how nicely they can dress their girls, and how quickly get them married. What a sad mistake they make.

Another and perhaps a greater mistake than the first that the wife makes, is in not having her mind and future life beautifully moulded and strongly fortified by solid thinking, and well shaped plans of her own. Women appear to have a mistaken idea that the marriage vow includes the clause "Thou shalt be petted," so they whine around waiting to be fed on the meagre crumbs that fall from the husband's great current of thought, and bustle and struggle to maintain an honorable position in the world. True, it is a man's right to pet and even dote on his fair companion, and the one who is so fortunate as to receive such homage should accept it as a sacred boon, while on the other hand if it is considered a duty, it becomes annoying and irksome in the extreme, and both husband and wife think they have made some great mistake in chosing their "Ideal," and that married life is a failure. If the wife would think and manage and plan, and have ideas of her own, many lives might be more successful. Even if all else should be lost, she would have this beautiful store of cultivated and sublime thoughts to console her. —N. O. W., Webster County, Mo.

THIS AND THAT.—Can any one tell us how to cleanse our cistern pump, so it will not make the water smell bad? It was all right about two years, then it began to give us trouble. It is a wooden pump, and in the kitchen. The water in the cistern smells all right. Also tell me how to re-paint a floor so the paint will stick as at first. If any of the sisters know of any easy way to get tea stains off of teacups, I wish they would give it to me, as I have a good deal of trouble to keep my cups clear and nice.

I want to thank the lady who told us how to make custard pies without milk. They are much nicer than when made the other way. The one I mean was: Beat 5 eggs together, 5 tablespoonfuls of sugar and add 1 pt. of boiling water, stirring the while. Try it, new subscribers.

Those lace patterns give me a great deal of pleasure. I try them all, and some of them are beautiful. I will try also to give a few helpful hints:

A sure cure for inflammation of the bowels is: Cook potatos, peelings and all, till tender; then mash them and apply as warm as can be borne. As fast as the poultice cools a little change it for a warmer one. Keep on till cured.

When little ones—or large ones either—get their fingers pinched or bruised, hold the hand in as warm water as can be borne. It will give instant relief.

To cure earache—Put the child in bed, with the aching ear up, fill the ear with warm chamber lye, and by the time all goes in the earache is done. It never fails, even when used by grown people.

To make apple pudding—One and a half teacupfuls sour milk, one level teaspoonful of soda, a little salt, stir in flour till as thick as you can stir, then stir in a quart of peeled and quartered apples, mellow tart ones that cook quick; turn into a buttered pan and steam one hour and a quarter. To be eaten with sweetened cream or anything you like. It is just splendid and so cheap. —MRS. R. H., Polk City, Iowa.

Inquiries.

Will some of the readers of the BLADE living in Dakota furnish me with information where, in Dakota, in a healthy locality and live place, is a desirable location to start a shop for light or heavy blacksmithing, or both? Any one kind enough to answer me can do so by mail. Address, MECHANIC, Maywood, Ill.

I should be pleased to know how the South Kensington stitch is made. Also a safe and sure way of removing superfluous hair.—ROSA GAY.

Any person having or knowing of the words and music of the pieces entitled "The Officers' Funeral" and "Nellie Grant's Wedding March," let me know through the BLADE, and I will send stamps for same.—DORA RUSH, West Middletown, Washington Co., Pa.

Will some kind sister tell me, through THE HOUSEHOLD, how to work Kensington stitch, in outline for making "Doylies" what number silk to use, and any other information on the subject?—KENSINGTON, Calmax, Iowa.

The stitch has already been described in the HOUSEHOLD. It can be done with crewel, filoselle or embroidery silk.—ED.

Can any one tell how to make an air-castle out of tissue paper?—JENNIE.

I have heard there is a cold water soap that can be prepared at home, saving half the trouble in washing, using cold water entirely. If any of the sisters know how to prepare such, and will tell the rest of us, I think they will confer a great favor on the HOUSEHOLD.—E. A. P., Norwalk, O.

Will some kind reader of this paper send me a rabbit and an elephant pattern? I will pay postage. Has any of the readers words and music to a song named "Riding in the Cars?"—MISS ARTHA STIVER, New Bedford, Bureau Co., Ill.

Can any of the HOUSEHOLD send me the song entitled "The White Pilgrim." The first two lines are "I came to the spot where the white pilgrim lay." Mary Durant can have the song she wanted by sending her address and a stamp to Cora Kimball, Winfield, Henry County, Ia.

Again I come a supplicant, asking for Western papers, books, magazines, reading from any part of the Union; no matter if old it will be dearly appreciated. Having the care of my invalid mother, whom I fear cannot survive the Winter, makes the long Winter evenings very lonely indeed. Therefore your favors would be a comfort through the lonely vigils of the night. And visits by way of letter will also be very welcome.—NANNIE, box 151, Romeo, Mich.

Answers to Inquiries.

Tell "A Reader" to get a fresh beef's gall and rub it thoroly on the chilblains, and not only find relief but a permanent cure.—"WALNUT LEAF."

If Jennie Lind will send her address to Mrs. Ina Cutler, Riverside, Berrien County, Mich., she will send her a pattern for a letter case and match safe. If she wants it, send stamp.

In your number, December 7, F. K. asks has any one the piece of music "Pass Under the Rod?" In reply I would say I have it. Let F. K. address MRS. F. D. FOWLER, Monroeton, Bradford County, Pa.

Please let me return thanks through the HOUSEHOLD to the kind friend who favored me with the BLADE this present year. I would be glad to have their address.—NANNIE, Romeo, Mich.

Both "Ella" and "Mrs. B." would find remunerative employment in canvassing for the book, "Old Dr. Carlin's Recipes," often referred to in these columns. The work can be unhesitatingly recommended and liberal commissions are allowed. Any one who would like to canvass for it can write to Locke Publishing Co., Toledo, O., and find out all about the matter.—ED.

Recipes.

How to Make Good Coffee.—Select green, hard coffee. Brown in a skillet to a seal brown. Do not grind it until dinner is on the table. Wash the coffee-pot clean every time and scald it well. Make your coffee strong. Do not boil it, but let it just come to the boiling point. Now bring it to the table. Put into each cup two tablespoonsful of thick cream. That's the way I make good coffee.—MRS. NANCY CLOUD, Dalton City, Ill.

Marble Cake and Jelly Roll for "White Pansy"—Marble cake, light 1½ cups white sugar, ½ cup butter, ½ cup sweet milk, ½ teaspoonful soda, 1 teaspoonful creamtartar, white of 4 eggs, 2½ cups flour. Dark part: 1 cup brown sugar, ½ cup molasses, ½ cup butter, ½ cup sour milk, ½ teaspoonful soda, 1 of creamtartar, yolks of 4 eggs, 2½ cups flour, ½ tablespoonful cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg. Place in the cake-pan alternate pieces of the light and dark dough, about as large as a walnut. Second layer, place light over dark, and vice versa. Make two cakes. Jelly roll: 1½ cups sugar, 3 eggs, 1 cup sweet milk, 2 cups flour, 2 teaspoonsful creamtartar and 1 of soda.—MRS. L. E. S.

Peach Sponge.—Mash one pint of canned peaches fine, rub through a sieve. Soak half a package of gelatine for two hours in half a cupful of water. Boil a cupful of water and a scant cupful of sugar for 15 minutes. Put the sifted peach in this syrup and boil five minutes, stirring all the time. Place this saucepan in another of boiling water and add the gelatine; place the saucepan in a dish of ice water and beat the syrup till it begins to cool. Add the whites of five eggs, well beaten, and beat until the mixture begins to harden. When it will just pour out, turn it into the mould and set away to harden. Serve with cream and sugar.—*Worcester Chronicle.*

Oyster Pie.—Take a deep pie pan and line it with pie crust or puff paste; put it in the oven to bake; when done fill the pan with oysters that have been washed nicely; put in pepper and salt, half a cup of butter; dredge flour over them and cover with puff paste rolled thick. When the top crust is done the pie is ready.—Mrs. L. E. STAIR, Valley City, Dak.

To Relieve Hoarseness.—Hoarseness and tickling in the throat are best relieved by the gargle of the white of an egg beaten to a froth in half a glass of warmed, sweetened water.—H. L.

Our Young Folks.

For the Blade Young Folks.

THE ORPHANS.

A Christmas Story.

BY W. S. FRAZIER.

It was a cold and bitter night,
The sky was bright and crystal clear.
Earth's royal robe of spotless white
Proclaimed the season of the year.

'Twas Christmas Eve, and Farmer Gray
Sat musing, by the fire-place old,
Of that most radiant, happy day
When joys from golden fountains welled.

He thought of how, in earlier years
The world seemed new and bright and fair,
And how more recent griefs and tears
Had left the impress of despair.

By his good wife, a favorite place
He sat, and, with alternate thought,
A smile illumed his wrinkled face
Then grief a shade of sadness wrought.

And, as along the path of life
From earliest years, his thoughts sped on;
He dreamed not that his faithful wife
Was thinking, too, of days long gone.

Still backward rolled the Flood of Time,
He was again an artless child
Whose voice, with sweet harmonic chime,
Broke unrestrained upon the wild.

He played among the ancient trees,
And wandered by the brook along;
He watched the toiling honey bees,
And listened to the robin's song.

He grew in strength and boyhood grace,
He was his mother's pride and joy;
She looked upon his fair young face
And reverent prayed "God bless my boy."

In the old school house, lingering still,
He sought the light of Wisdom's page;
And once more did, with royal will,
In childhood's merry sports engage.

With easy grace he tossed the ball,
He swung the bat with hearty zeal;
And, ever prompt at Duty's call,
He sought his own and other's weal.

As light of foot and glad of heart
As aught the fairies ever knew,
He knew his place and did his part
With conscience clear as morning's dew.

There sparkled from his brilliant eye
The happy sense of noble thought;
And in the zenith of his sky
It seemed a crown of gold was wrought.

A score of years and four had passed
With thought sped through the farmer's mind.
A scene which made his heart beat fast
His now enraptured gaze defined.

For at good Uncle Joseph Green's
A festive company of youth
Behold the happy bridal scenes,
And heard the plighted vows of truth.

How proud he felt as there he stood
Beside the lovely Annie Green,
And felt that Joy's beatitude
Had come to bless his waking dream.

His humble cottage, tasty, neat,
By honest, willing hands prepared,
Would be a throne of bliss complete,
When by his darling Annie shared.

Love smoothed life's rougher edges down
And made earth seem more bright the while,
For never yet was seen the frown
That was not followed by a smile.

Then happily 'mid rural scenes
They lived a life of quiet peace,
And felt the joys that Nature screens
From Croesus in urbanic lease.

Their children played upon the lawn
With rosy faces fresh and fair.
He saw, he saw his blue-eyed John,
And bonnie May with auburn hair.

Half waking and still half asleep,
He sought to fold them to his breast;
But no, for he was doomed to weep,—
They sank from view to quiet rest.

The farmer to his feet did spring,
"Oh, God, I am bereft," he cried.
Then suddenly recovering
His thought, sat down and sadly sighed.

"Oh William, dearest," said his wife,
"I know thy thoughts for they are mine,
Our love, our happiness, our life
Around our darlings seemed to twine.

"'Twas hard to bear, 'twas O, so hard,
That awful anguish of the heart!
But, William, we are not debarred
From that blest home where friends ne'er part."

"Dear Annie, what you say is true,
But why this awful grief of ours?
Why has Death sent his chilling dew
Upon those dearest, sweetest flowers?"

"Dear husband, don't forget, I pray,
The countless blessings of the past.
Our way is not God's holy way,
And grief can not forever last."

The farmer tried to speak again,
His voice was stifled with a sob;
For bitter thoughts rushed through his brain,—
His heart with anguish seemed to throb.

Abruptly from his chair he rose,
Put on his hat and wandered forth.
He heeds not how the cold wind blows,
Life seems to him of little worth.

He cares not where his steps may lead,
He takes no note of aught he sees;
But to the Village Bonnymede,
He wends his way among the trees.

Along the streets with silent tread
He walked in solitary gloom;
His thoughts were with the silent dead,
His heart was buried in their tomb.

But suddenly there was a change,
His heart beat gladly and he smiled.
He clasped in his embrace, how strange,
His child, his own, his darling child.

"Where is thy sister, child," he said,
Then saw a little girl near by;
She seemed to him by kindness led,—
A childish trust lit up her eye.

"Oh darling May, thou 'rt found at last,
How many days I've sought for thee.
I feared that happy day was past
When I thy blessed form should see."

He took the children in his arms
And started home with joyful tread.
Life seemed to glow with sweeter charms,—
They lived who had been mourned as dead.

His good wife met him at the door
With anxious mien, to comfort give;
"Oh, wife," said he, "the grief we've bore
Is at an end, our children live."

His wife discerned at once the truth,
His mind was wandering from its seat;
She saw her duty though, forsooth,—
To thus preserve his joy complete.

"Oh, William, I'm so glad," she said,
"That you have May and Johnny found,
Our pathway shall with flowers be spread
And music shall be every sound."

"Wife, let us pray," the old man said,
"To God is due our grateful praise."
And then in humble, living faith:
Thank God for all his righteous ways."

The farmer lived a few short years,
But happy were those years to him;
For through life's joys, and through life's tears,
He saw the smiling Seraphim.

Those little ones he saved from death
That long and gloomy Christmas Eve,
Were blessings till his latest breath;
It was not wrong he should not grieve.

Poor Annie suffered, but she chose
To suffer in her silent thought.
That her dear husband's life might close
Amid the scenes these comforts brought.

And in old age, when she was weak,
Those children, grown to riper years,
Showed that deep love, words can not speak,
Which shields and honors and reveres.

They seemed her life, her strength, her all,—
She loved them with und

The Farm.

The Department will cordially invite questions, essays, and also short communications on agricultural topics, letters on crop reports, etc. Communications should be written legibly and on one side of the paper only, and never on the same sheet with business letters. The full name and address should in all cases accompany the communication.

Deterioration of Dairy Farms.

Mr. R. K. Tomlinson, of Bucks Co., Pa., sends an excellent communication to the *Philadelphia Press* on this subject, discussing the causes of deterioration and pointing out remedies, as follows:

"Thirty or 40 years ago it was the almost universal practice all this country to apply the whole of the barnyard manure to wheat, sowed, as now, with timothy and clover. I am of the most marked examples of rapid improvement in farms that this country has witnessed were under this system, followed as it was by the most extensive growth of that period. The only crops was a heavy yield of straw, in those days, and with the wheat-straw, the refuse of the corn-fodder, and usually a great second-crop clover threshed for seed, found its way into the barnyard, and was mixed with the excrements of a full complement of well-fed stock. Within my recollection, and doubtless within that of many of my readers, is the sight of many such barnyards, with manure massed four or five feet thick, and saved by its very depth and density from leaching or wasteful fermentation. Many farmers hoarded of 250 to upwards of 300 two-horse loads of such plant food, containing every chemical element needed, and more important still, giving the humus and the physical condition of the soil necessary to withstand severe droughts; and, probably, most important of all for the clover plant, first securing into vigorous life in the second year of its application when needed for grass. Modern barnyards with the oat straw, and sometimes the whole of the corn fodder and part of the wheat-straw fed to stock, with no second crop clover straw, and with their manure removed by drippets at all seasons, present no parallel in their offering to the wheat and clover plant. Hence the very best season's growth of grass under the best application of this system, that James C. Cornell, deceased, one of Northampton's best farmers, found it more feasible to pasture than to attempt to mow the excessive growth; and surely such pasturing could not be harmful to fertility. Even on our sandy soils near the river, Stacy Brown and others secured a constant succession of heavy wheat, clover and timothy crops by extra heavy and rich manuring from fattening stock, put just where it would do the best good.

"Fifty or more years ago, when there was such latent fertility in the soil which clover better than any other plant could make available, the old maxim, 'Sow clover to improve the soil,' was doubtless correct. But now, with our soils, like everything else, to be used for all it is worth on immediate returns, that maxim needs to be reversed, and we should say, improve the soil to raise clover. Dairying is not necessarily exhaustive, and if we do not improve our farms as rapidly as our fathers did, it is because we do not make as much and as rich barnyard manure as formerly, and do not, as they did, give the clover plant the chief part of the benefit therefrom.

"Instead of cutting and feeding so much of our corn-stalks and straw, had we not better pass more of them into our stables and barnyards, and thereby add to the quantity, and, by their protection, the quality of our manure? Or, if we must have a scanty pile of frequently disturbed manure, might we not, by shedding, prevent this under exposure to waste? If the clover plant must be robbed of that direct inheritance, which seems best fitted to its growth, need we, at least, put it so far away in the form of unexhausted fertility, and, by their protection, the quality of our manure? Or, if we must have a scanty pile of frequently disturbed manure, might we not, by shedding, prevent this under exposure to waste? If the clover plant must be robbed of that direct inheritance, which seems best fitted to its growth, need we, at least, put it so far away in the form of unexhausted fertility, as the supplies have been proved to give as good results on sod corn as on wheat; ought we not rather apply them to the former and save our barnyard manure for wheat, or at least for Spring crops, such as potato, millet or fodder-corn, immediately preceding wheat? Instead of demanding a highly soluble fertilizer, which will flash in the pan on the wheat crop, had we not better supply a larger quantity of the cheaper and less soluble compounds which will reserve more of their strength for the grass crop?

"Lastly, when we are doing all we can to restore the grazing capacity of our arable land, which has decreased with the decadence of clover, we should increase our soiling practice. But as a true friend and large practicer of soiling, I must give a warning note. Clover and the pasture must still be considered the chief anchor of fertility and profit in dairy farming."

Progressive Farming.

There has never been a time in the history of our agricultural industries, when the average American farmer was so willing to investigate the merits of every new idea. Investigate a variety of stock or farm product, or theory even, in which he could be supposed to be interested, as at the present day. Something new is being constantly developed in this direction, and the New Englander who seeks out a broader home in the West than he has been able to get or hold in the East, brings along all his natural inventive and inquisitive faculties, and while his natural wealth in them is spoken of by those of no broad a field, tries many new and original experiments with important results in many cases. Almost every day some old and pet theory of farmers is overthrown, and some new and better one established on its ruins; established by intelligent experiment, and only then is it accepted by the more intelligent of the country as a fact. Scarcely ever we shall surely witness part of the necessary work attendant upon the cultivation of the soil, being done by a simpler, more sensible and less laborious methods than this year. It is not so much man's dislike of work that causes him to study out these valuable improvements, as desire to work faster, and accomplish a great deal in a short time. The spirit of the age encourages, every laudable effort in this direction, and the inventor though of humble origin, and often with but very little book education, is recognized as a man of genius and ability and becomes a public benefactor. To study the progress of events constantly, to keep the mind of any intelligent reader with surprise. Read the notices of the various patents that have been granted, and you will wonder what use can be made of them all. From the aggregate number, select those in which the farmer is specially interested, and you will begin to understand the force of this article. Many things you would seen the fact, that the demand for better implements and machinery is never but temporarily supplied, and there is no stopping place anticipated, in the great, mighty progress now carrying everything before it. It puzzles many of us to keep up with the times. Every intelligent farmer needs to read constantly some of the best periodical and standard publications devoted to his specialties. Even then, he finds that he often hear of many new facts his eye had failed to see any account of in his papers.

But it will not always be safe to accept every invention as an improvement, for every new method could hardly be a better one. Very many new sorts of grapes, strawberries, apples and other fruits are constantly being brought out, but many of them must be recorded as "not recommended for general use." Perhaps the effort was quite as great to produce the undesirable varieties as the more choice kinds, but every experiment cannot be supposed to be a success, that is the failed. As establishing a fact, any experiment cannot be counted a failure. This is a fruitful subject, and our readers will find it a pleasant one to follow. By studying the principles of improvement that is most likely to become himself an inventor and public benefactor.—*Poultry and Farm Journal.*

Healthfulness of Honey.

American people are lovers of sweet, and consume an average of 40 pounds or more of sugar for every man, woman and child of population, says an exchange. To meet this enormous tribute of dollars' worth of sugar is imported annually, and millions of dollars' worth of honey is allowed to go to waste from want of bees to collect and put it in proper shape for the use of man. It is not generally known as it should be, that honey may be employed for sweetening purposes instead of sugar for most of the purposes for which the latter is used. But could we supply it to the extent of diminishing our imports of sugar to one-half their present proportions, millions of dollars would be saved for the purpose of business in our own country. But far above all money considerations would be the use of a pure sweet upon the health of the people instead of the vile compounds now sold as sugar and syrups. The healthfulness of honey as food has been admitted from the earliest writers down through the centuries to the present time. Hence we have nothing to fear from the use of honey, while recent developments show we have much to fear as to health in the use of adulterated sugars and syrups. But the price of honey in the past has had much to do in keeping it from the tables of men of limited means who did not produce it, the workers to collect and store it for them. Honey is a vegetable production, appearing in greater or less quantities in every flower that nods to the breeze or kisses the bright sunlight in all this heaven-favored land of ours. It is secreted in the flower for the purpose of attracting insects, thus securing the complete fertilization of the female blossoms. Hence it follows, that all the honey we can secure in the hour of its presence in the nectaries of flowers is clear gain from the domain of nature.—*Iowa Homestead.*

Fertilizing Queens in Confinement.

A correspondent of the *Bee-Keepers' Magazine* gives the following directions for catching queens to be fertilized in confinement, which is regarded by many as impossible:

Procure a wire cloth dish-cover nine or 10 inches in diameter, fasten to a piece of thin board, with a door made in the board large enough to put in your fist, and you will have as good a fertilizer as can be made. They cost, generally, only 30 cents each. If no dish-covers are to be had, make a cage of fine wire cloth, 12 to 14 inches long by six or eight inches in diameter; fasten on the inside of the fertilizer a piece of empty comb (drone comb is the best), two or four inches square, which, when required for use, fill with honey and water taking pains not to spill any honey about, or the queen and drone become daubed up so as to prevent them from flying. On the morning of the day a queen is to leave the hive, usually the fifth day after hatching, catch her and put her with four or five selected drones in the fertilizer. The drones that are to be put with the young queens should be good, strong, vigorous fellows, and should be caught as they are about to leave the hive. Those returning from a trip will not answer, as they are too much fatigued. Lay the fertilizer, when fixed, so the warm air can get to it over the frames of the hives to which the young queen belongs; if a dish-cover fertilizer, put the rounding side downward. The queen may be put on any comb. I have put three on one hive at a time. Put on the cap, which should have an opening in the side or top, covered with glass, to admit light. Leave her there 30 or 48 hours, the shorter time usually answers. At the end of that time, if a dead drone is found, examine it, and if the genitals are gone, release the queen, and she goes down into the hive and commences to lay in a few days, or give the bees of a nucleus a dose of smoke and put her with them until required. If you doubt whether she has become fertile, and think she will leave the hives to meet the drones, clip her wing, or shut up the hive until she begins to lay, as I have often done and your doubts will vanish quickly. The important discovery is this: "That queens will be fertilized in confinement if shut up at about the time they would have flown, with four or five selected drones," no matter how the thing is managed or what kind of a fertilizer is used. I look upon it as the most important discovery that has ever been made in bee culture, as it prevents all loss of queens by flying away, and enables us to breed bees with as much certainty as can be done with horses, cattle or other stock.

Storing Sweet Potatos.

A correspondent of *Farm and Garden*, writing from Greenville, Ky., says: "The most common and most successful way of storing away sweet potatos for Winter keeping in this latitude is to put up in dust. There are other modes which have their advocates. In the Summer when the dust is very dry, I take as many barrels or boxes as I shall want to fill with potatos and fill them with road dust and put them away in a dry place to keep until I dig my potatos. I prefer digging before frost. I dig them and let them dry in the sun a day; then they are stored away in a cool place; they are spread singly over the floor so as not to heat or heat or sweat; when cold weather sets in they are taken and stored in the cellar; cover the bottom of the barrel or box with about three inches of dust, then a layer of potatos, close as they can be not to touch, cover them with dust, then potatos, and so on, until the barrel or box is nearly full; then fill up with dust. In this way potatos will keep through most any Winter. I find this the best way to keep sweet potatos over Winter. Another way I have tried with very good success, is to pile the potatos in a large cone-shape pile; 30 to 40 bushels keep better than less. Then take straw in small handfuls and pack around, commencing at the bottom, building it firm, eight to 10 inches thick, until near the top, then insert a flue near the top, and build tight around the flue. In a few days the potatoes will begin to sweat and emit a steam; after they go through the heat, and cold weather sets in, this flue can be stopped with straw. Now this straw is covered with dirt thick enough to suit the weather. I have very good success with potatos stored in this way, but prefer putting up in dust. When I put up in straw, I put up in the garden, putting a shelter over them."

Roots with Meal and Hay, and Why.

The *National Live Stock Journal* says: "Cattle and hogs will greedily eat sugar beets or other roots when on a full ration of corn. They will relish the roots because they have a cooling and sedative effect upon the stomach and bowels. Corn is so full of carbon as to have a tendency to produce a feverish state of the system given too largely. Roots have the same effect upon the system as succulent grass. English farmers use roots largely, in the fattening ration, but they also feed with them rape-cake, linseed cake, etc., or rather nitrogenous food. Roots, like Indian corn, are too poor in nitrogen, as a single food for growing young animals or for fattening. Corn and roots together would be much healthier than corn alone, but a better fattening ration Corn meal be oats and corn with roots, or, better still, corn, cottonseed meal or linseed meal, and roots. With a small proportion of linseed meal, say three pounds, with nine pounds of corn meal, roots would not be necessary for health, as the linseed meal would keep the fowls in good order. Corn bran and sugar beets or mangolds would fatten hogs and keep them healthy. Hogs, especially, are benefitted by the use of roots. They are usually fed on corn alone, which we believe often induces cholera and other diseases. The roots give them a bulky and cooling food—just what they so much need. Bran is a bulky food, and, fed with corn, is beneficial to hogs. Sugar beets, with good clover hay, will give young animals or fatten mature ones. The clover is rich in nitrogen, and the roots in carbon, making a well-balanced ration."

Our Winter Laying Hens

Must be well fed, or we get few or no eggs at this season of the year. But care must be exercised that we do not overfatten them, for this period, to gross feeding. It is one thing to feed well (and properly), and quite another thing to gorge and cloy them.

While it is important that the Winter quarters should be tight overhead, so that snow and rain can not drive into the house, it is also of consequence that plenty of fresh air may be allowed them inside the building. It is also necessary to see to the means of ventilating the premises, when this may be desired.

Fowls in contracted limits will get ill from breathing the impurities exhaled from their own bodies, and from the foulness emitted from their excrement, very frequently. Roup is thus engendered, often, when the cause of the breaking out of this troublesome disease is least expected.

Our laying hens that we keep for Winter eggs, more or less, must not be subjected to this unwholesome and sickening kind of atmosphere. Only hens that are in good health will lay, at any season. If they are kept in unhealthy air they surely will discount on eggs!

At the same time they should be judiciously fed, and have a good variety of egg-producing materials within their easy reach. In this way hens will give us eggs in Winter time—if we get the right breeds, and select the early-hatched pullets of the previous Spring that have not laid out a litter early in the Fall.—*Poultry World.*

A Fighting Methodist.

UTICA, Dec. 20.—George Hardiman, of Utica, shot H. S. Warner, of Rome, while at the Central depot yesterday. Hardiman and Warner are both prominent Methodists. The former met heavy real estate losses a few years ago and became insane. While in the asylum Warner visited Hardiman. On the latter's release he accused Warner of having been too intimate with Hardiman's wife Hardiman had been sent to Ovid asylum and escaped on two occasions. He was subsequently arrested in Rome in the Methodist Church with masks and a revolver in his possession. He claimed to be there for the purpose of laying a complaint before the church. Recently he brought a suit against Warner for $5,000 damages for alleged seduction of his wife. It is claimed that the charges against Warner are unfounded. One ball passed through the fleshy portion of Warner's leg, and the other lodged in his right thigh. The wounds are not considered dangerous. Hardiman has been arrested.

A Prize Fight.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 20.—A prize fight between the Swede, John Gilson, and the German, Hoberhamm, for a purse of $250, took place 25 miles from here this morning. Ten rounds were fought, when the fight was declared a draw, both men being so weak they could hardly stand. About 50 persons witnessed the mill.

HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE
For Women and Children.

Dr. Jos. Holt, New Orleans, La., says: "I have frequently found it of excellent service in cases of debility, loss of appetite, and in convalescence from exhaustive illness, and particularly of service in treatment of woman and children."

—The best and cheapest Car Starter is sold by Borden, Selleck & Co., Chicago, Ill. With it one man can move a loaded car.

The Sunday School.

The Ascending Lord.

LESSON I, SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 1882.

Golden Text—And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up.—Acts 1: 9.

LESSON TEXT.

Acts 1: 1-14.

1. The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach.

2. Until the day in which he was taken up after that he, through the Holy Ghost, had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen.

3. To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

4. And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5. For John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

6. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7. And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel.

11. Which also said, ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

12. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

13. And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alpheus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

14. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

ILLUSTRATIVE APPLICATIONS.

The former treatise have I made (v. 1.) In any new beginning of study and work, it is important to have in mind what has been done in the same line. No one can learn or do to advantage, unless he avails himself of what others have learned or done before him. Any other plan would utterly forbid progress. The world would be full of new beginnings and nothing else. He who would study the New Testament wisely, must know what the Old Testament has disclosed. He who would get good from the book of Acts must have in mind at the start, the facts and teachings of the former treatise by the same author: "The Gospel according to Luke."

Jesus began to do and to teach. After all that has been done before our day, we have a new beginning to make; and at the best we shall not do all that has to be done in our sphere of work. Even Jesus, who said of his own earthly mission of trial and sacrifice, "it is finished," only "began to do and to teach" in the world's sphere of Christian influence and endeavor. He is still carrying forward that work and he has left much of it for us to do. The world sees as yet only the beginning of good from the life and death of Jesus. There is stimulus and comfort in that thought.

Commanded them that they should wait for the promise of the Father, which, said he, ye have heard from me (v. 4.) There is no way in which a child of God can better please his Father than by waiting patiently for a promise to be fulfilled. To be willing to wait a parent's time for a proper gift or attention, shows a loyal spirit in any child. To fret, and chafe, and seem to doubt, because a parent's promise is not yet made good, grieves a parents heart, and shows a lack of a loving spirit in the child. And the best promises of God have to be waited for. When we are sorely tried and tempted, when others fail us, when we are surprised and disappointed at the course things are taking, when our prayers seem unanswered or denied, when our best work seems a failure; then it is for us to wait for the promise of the Father which we have heard, "Ye have need of patience, that, having done the will of God, ye may receive the promise."

They asked, Lord, wilt thou at this time . . . He said, . . . It is not for you to know (vs. 6, 7.) It is enough for us to know, in some things, what we are not to know. It would have been very easy for Jesus at this time to tell his disciples plainly that he was not to remain with them. That would have answered their question. But he chose to tell them that he should not tell them. And if Jesus was not ready to answer such a question when it was asked of him by his chosen disciples, shall we wonder that there are some things in God's dealings with us and with the world which we cannot understand? Or can we look into heaven, isn't that the best business possible for him; if Jesus is coming again from heaven, why shouldn't we stand and watch for his appearance? The reason is, that Jesus has steady work for every disciple of his; and he wants that work attended to. We are neither to stand looking back at Calvary, nor stand looking up into heaven. We are to have our eyes on our work, and our hands at our work, and our hearts in our work—for our absent Lord. Then when our Lord comes again, as he promises to come, he will find us so doing, and that is the way he will want to find us. *H. Clay Trumbull, in Sunday School Times.*

WILD CLAIMS,

Involving the White House, the Treasury Building and Other Property in the District of Columbia.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 20.—Steps have been taken by reputable citizens of this City and elsewhere, towards prosecuting a claim of immense value. The property involved is that upon which stands the United States Capitol, the Whitehouse, the Treasury, and other Government and private buildings in Washington and Georgetown, covering 481 acres in the District of Columbia, besides 100 acres in Bladenburg, Md., 500 acres in Washington County, Penn., and a treasure in the Bank of England. The money value of this estate can hardly be estimated. It seems hardly credible that such a claim could be made by sensible people. But it is nevertheless true. The claimants are descendants of Blademore, a settler of colonial times. The late Mayor Blademore of this City was, it is claimed, his great grandson. After the Mayor's death, which occurred about eight years ago, the United States Court made an order in the Blademore bankruptcy proceedings giving an allowance to the assignee for the purpose of presenting the claim of the Blademore heirs in the vast estate. In accordance with this order, the assignee has been gathering information for the purpose of instituting legal proceedings. It is understood that he has a representative in Washington at the present time. Two Washington attorneys were here recently, consulting the heirs about the estate. Other claimants in the vicinity are ex-Sheriff R. H. Patterson, Dr. S. Beltzhover, of Tonic Bitters fame, and an old family in Mansfield, Pa. About 40 of them met recently at Mansfield, contributed money and sent a representative to Washington. Besides this concerted action, they are individually represented by counsel. The Pittsburg attorneys interviewed are Thomas H. Marshall, C. F. McKenna, and C. J. C. Woods. Some heirs in Baltimore are represented by the law firm of Richardson & Co.

A Blind Man's Fury.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 19.—At McKeesport an old blind man named Bennett attempted to murder his wife and also to end his own life by cutting the throat. The screams of the woman attracted the police, and upon entering the apology for a house found that Bennett had nearly cut his wife's right leg off with a butcher's knife, and then made a horrible gash on his own throat, but was prevented from killing himself by his wife, who grabbed the knife and took it from him. When the officers were going to arrest Bennett his wife protested, saying that the cutting was accidental. Bennett is said to be a sober man, but is possessed of an ungovernable temper and is also very jealous, the latter being the supposed cause of the assault upon his wife.

"BEST OF ALL."

Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.: Dear Sir—My family has used your "Favorite Prescription" and it has done all that is claimed for it. It is the best of all preparations for female complaints. I recommend it to all of my customers.

G. S. WATERMAN,
Druggist, Baltimore, Md.

CONGRESSIONAL.

47th Congress—Second Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.

Sen. Sherman presented a substitute for the House bill providing for the entry of distilled spirits in warehouses which was agreed upon in committee to-day. Sen. Sherman attempted to have the bill considered to-day, but Sen. Ingalls objected, and it goes over until to-morrow. The bill extends the time within which spirits heretofore entered in distillery warehouses shall be withdrawn.

Sen. Vest submitted a minority report from the Shipping Committee. Ordered printed.

On motion of Sen. Morrill, the bill as amending the act to repeal discriminating duties on goods produced east of the Cape of Good Hope was taken up and passed.

Sen. Pugh (Ala.) offered an elaborate amendment to the pending Civil Service bill.

A number of bills were introduced, after which the Indian Appropriation bill came up, the Civil Service bill being laid aside informally.

Sen. Brown rose to a personal explanation, and had read at the desk an article in a Washington paper, stating the committee of Senators and Representatives who had attended the funeral of Sen. Hill had traveled in a special car and been extravagant generally, and incurred bills amounting to $3,980. Sen. Brown said the committee had not traveled in a special car, and had not been extravagant, their whole expenses being only $1,025. It was true, he believed, that the speaker had presented the Sergeant-at-Arms with a bill of over $3,000 for the funeral expenses of Sen. Hill, but not with the approval of the family or the friends of the deceased. There was no precedent for the payment by the United States for the burial of Senators or Representatives, and Sen. Hill's family and friends asked nothing but what was customary.

Sen. Beck said he had called for information in regard to the discrepancy between the appropriation and the estimated expenditures, and he thought it satisfactorily explained in the communication of the Secretary of the Interior.

Sen. Dawes, in charge of the bill, made a brief statement of its provisions. The estimate for the year, he said, was $6,625,000. The bill, as it came from the House, appropriated $5,280,000, and the Senate committee $154,200. The amount appropriated last year was $5,477,000, so that the appropriation this year would be $1,962,000 less than the estimate, and $112,248 less than the appropriation last year.

The bill was then read and nearly all the amendments reported by the Committee on Foreign Affairs agreed to.

In discussion Sen. Beck said that making appropriations to pay teachers, blacksmiths, etc., upon reservations, in accordance with our absurd treaties, was a mere waste of money. These appropriations were made from year to year while among many of the tribes no school houses were ever opened. Young Indians could hardly be caught with a lasso, much less confined in schoolhouses, and the money was spent upon supernumeries.

Sen. Hoar, from the Committee on Judiciary, reported, with amendments, the Bankruptcy bill, which was recommended to that committee last week. The amendments are:

1. Excepting from the term "trader," as used in the bill, persons who buy goods and merchandise for sale only to their tenants, employes and laborers.

2. Providing that the Attorney General shall annually lay before Congress tables showing the number of bankruptcy proceedings, voluntary and involuntary, amount of dividends paid, expenses of proceedings, etc.

3. Adding to the clause specifying who shall be deemed to have committed an act of bankruptcy the following: "Or shall, after the passage of this act, sell or buy, or agree to sell or buy for delivery at a future period longer than three days from date of sale or purchase, any stocks, bonds or other securities, or any grain, food, provisions, provender, or cotton, wool, sugar, salt or tobacco, without such vender being at the time of making such contract the owner or assignee or trustee of the property sold or agreed to be sold, or the authorized agent of such owner, assignee or trustee."

4. Providing that if proceedings in a bankruptcy case are not prosecuted to a conclusion within nine months from the time of filing the petition, the proceedings shall be dismissed by the Court and the parties placed in the same position as regards their rights as debtor and creditor as they held at the commencement of the proceedings.

The House resolutions in relation to the death of Rep. Orth, were laid before the Senate. Sen. Harrison said the announcement of the death of Rep. Orth would bring sorrow to a very wide circle of friends, and as a token of respect to one who had had a long and very honorable career in the public service he moved the Senate adjourn.

The presiding officer appointed as a Committee to attend the funeral, Sens. Harrison, Lapham and Saunders.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The death of Mr. Orth (Ind) was referred to in touching words by the Chaplain of the House. The desk of the late Representative was decked in black.

Mr. Butterworth (Ohio) offerd a resolution reciting the fact that the agitation of the question of reducing or abolishing the internal revenue tax on tobacco has greatly injured and continues to injure the trade in those articles, and that the allowance of rebate on the stock on hand will prevent damage to the trade mentioned, and declaring it to be the sense of the House that in case the internal revenue laws be amended so as to reduce or abolish the internal revenue tax on tobacco, provision shall be made for allowing a rebate of the tax paid on the stock on hand at the time such laws go into effect, provided such stock is stamped and in unbroken packages. After discussion the resolution was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Kelly reported back the resolution for a holiday recess, without recommendation, and said the business of the country would be facilitated if the House remained in session duridg the holidays.

A long and spirited debate ensued on the question of adjournment over the holidays. Mr. Reed contended that the members had enough recreation during the last vacation, which remark created considerable merriment.

Mr. Cox opposed the proposition to sit during the holidays, and said the harvest is passed, the Summer is ended, and we are not saved. [Laughter.] The resolution for a recess from December 22 to January 3 was lost—yeas, 105; nays, 123.

Mr. Robeson introduced a resolution prescribing a fine of $50 upon any member for each day's absence during the holiday week. Adopted.

The House then, at 2:50 P. M., adjourned out of respect for the memory of the late Representative Orth.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.

Sen. Sherman presented the memorial for the Western Tract Society of Cincinnati, asking that monthly publications be carried by mail at the same rate as weekly.

Sen. Harris introduced a bill to repeal the 10th section of the act to prevent the introduction of contagious diseases into the United States.

At the close of the morning hour, Sen. Sherman endeavored to bring up the bill for the entry of distilled spirits. Sen. Plumb objected, and the consideration of the Indian appropriation bill was resumed.

At 2 o'clock the civil service bill came up as unfinished business, but was laid aside in order to complete the Indian appropriation bill.

Sen. Beck offered an amendment to the Indian bill directing the removal of the Crow Agency to some point east of the Big Horn River in the vicinity of Fort Custer. Agreed to.

The Indian bill passed, and by unanimous consent Sherman succeeded in getting up the bill extending the time for the withdrawal of distilled spirits from bonded warehouses.

The Civil Service bill came up and Sherman obtained unanimous consent to lay it aside in order to take up a bill reported by him yesterday from the Committee on Finance extending the time for the withdrawal of distilled spirits from bonded warehouses.

Sen. Ingalls moved to amend the bill by adding a provision that from and after the expiration of three years from the entry of any distilled spirits now in warehouses, 5 per cent. of the interest shall be collected upon such spirits, to be computed down to the time of withdrawal. Ingalls' amendment was agreed to.

Sen. Windom offered an amendment providing that the time within which distilled spirits produced or manufactured after the passage of this act are required to be withdrawn from distillery warehouses, shall be limited to one year from the time they are entered for deposit in the warehouse.

Sens. Sherman, Beck and Williams opposed the amendment, and Windom advocated it.

Sen. Pendleton appealed to Sherman to withdraw his motion, but Sherman declined, saying the pending bill had been unfairly treated, and he would insist upon his motion to the end. Upon a vote the motion was lost, and with the Civil Service bill before it the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Mills (Tex.) offered a resolution inquiring of the Postmaster General if letter carriers have been prohibited from wearing overcoats. If so, by what authority?

Mr. Butterworth (O.) reported the Army Appropriation bill, and will ask its consideration immediately after the Postoffice bill is disposed of.

The Speaker laid before the House a number of requests for leaves of absence. Debate ensued, and objections were raised on all sides. Several were granted, however, whereupon Mr. Brown (Ind.) said he had voted against the holiday adjournment in good faith, and was now satisfied that what was transacted in the House yesterday was a low comedy, and an attempt to meet during the holidays would be a farce.

Finally, after a warm debate, the House, by a vote of 127 yeas to 101 nays, adopted a resolution for a holiday recess from December 22 till January 2.

Shortly after 2 o'clock the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Postoffice Appropriation bill.

Mr. Williams (Wis.), Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a joint resolution reciting that the Government of France proposes to establish at Tunis a judicial system of common Christian nations, so that Courts in that country should be fully open for the protection of citizens of the United States, in their persons, property and rights, and authorizing the President to declare by proclamation that the right on the part of the United States and citizens to claim extra territorial jurisdiction within said territory of Tunis has ceased and will no longer be claimed or exercised. Passed.

Bills were introduced and referred:

By Mr. Dezendorf (Va.)—To prevent Federal officeholders interfering with the freedom of elections.

By Mr. Hafenbergh—To prevent the importation of adulterated teas.

By Mr. Cassidy (Nev.)—To amend the anti-polygamy law.

Mr. Strait, (Minn.) from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill to repeal the laws allowing the pre-emption of public land. Referred.

Mr. Scales (N. C.) offered a resolution directing the Committee on Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of so amending the internal revenue laws as not only to abolish the tax on tobacco, but also on all brandies made of apples, peaches and grapes, and reduce the tax on whisky to 50 cents per gallon, and further to inquire into the propriety of abolishing the present complicated, extensive and odious system of collecting said tax. Referred.

Mr. Neil (O.) offered a resolution instructing the Garfield Board of Audit to report to the House a schedule of all claims presented to and allowed by it. Adopted.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole (Mr. Calkins, Indiana, in the chair) on the Postoffice Appropriation bill, the pending amendment being that offered by Mr. Robeson, of New Jersey, providing that railroad companies which have received bond subsidies in addition to grants of public lands, shall receive as a compensation for carrying the mail 50 per cent. of the amount now allowed them by law for that service.

After a long discussion the Committee rose without action.

The Speaker announced as an escort at the burial of Rep. Orth (Ind.) Messrs. Calkins, Pierce, Steele, Watson, Davis, (Ills.) Warner and Reece.

Adjourned.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.

Sen. Hoar had seen statements in the public prints that the Committee had recommended a provision in the Bankruptcy bill to the effect that dealing in futures should be in itself an act of bankruptcy. "This," he said, "is a mistake. The provision applies only to paisons who are actually insolvent."

Sen. Hale reported a resolution for the holiday recess, but Sen. Conger objected to the present consideration. Sen. Hale gave notice he would call it up to-morrow.

At the close of the morning hour the Senate proceeded to consider the Consular Diplomatic Appropriation bill.

Sen. Saunders introduced a bill (by request) for the admission of Utah as a State.

The Consular bill, after a brief debate, was passed, and consideration of the Civil Service bill resumed.

Sen. Cameron (Wis.), from the Committee on Claims, reported, without amendment, the House bill to afford assistance and relief to Congress and the Executive Departments in the investigation of claims and demands against the Government and gave notice he would call it up at an early day.

The President laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, stating he had sent the House a report on the advisability of selling the Bridewell dock property in Chicago.

Sen. Cockrell presented a petition in relation to the railroad between North and South America. Referred.

Sen. Allison called up the Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bill. The amendments reported by the Committee on Appropriations were agreed to, except the provision that nothing in the act shall be construed to extend the time within which the French and American Claims Commission shall make a final report and expire.

On motion of Sen. Pendleton, with approval of the Committee on Foreign Relations, an amendment was added to the appropriation of $5,000 to enable the President to extent the diplomatic relations with the Governments of Eastern Asia. The bill then passed.

The Civil Service bill being under consideration, Sen. Pendleton offered an amendment striking out the provision that original entrance to the service shall be in the lowest grade, and providing that appointments in the departments shall be apportioned as nearly as possible among the States and Territories and the District of Columbia upon a basis of population.

Sen. Allison said that as he understood it, the pending bill simply proposed to enact into a law the practice now followed in most of the departments.

Sen. Vest said every Senator knew the regulations to which Allison referred amounted to nothing. When Schurz was Secretary of the Interior he had made an attempt to put them in force, and they were ostensibly in force now in the Treasury Department, yet no Democrat could get an appointment. Vest, continuing, ridiculed the Civil Service reform of "Father Fraud Hayes," and said next came Pres. Garfield's Administration. Garfield, in all his public utterances, has denounced the very abuses now sought to be remedied by the resolution, yet no sooner was he nominated for the Presidency than he began a correspondence with Dorsey, Secretary of the National Republican Committee, and now the chief of the star route defendants, a correspondence breathing the spirit of "spoils system," the burden of it being money—money must be obtained, more money for the Democratic State of Indiana, and Dorsey was afterward hoisted by the gentleman who is now President of the United States, at a banquet given at Delmonico's, and presided over by Gen. Grant, to do him honor for having successfully corrupted the suffrage of that great State. It has been charged that the Democratic party formerly practiced this system of political assessment, but he defied the gentleman to produce from the annals of the Democratic party such an infamous document as the highwayman's letter, dated in Philadelphia, signed John Cessna, Chairman, and addressed to officeholders, demanding two per cent. of their salaries, and threatening that at the end of the campaign a list of those who had not paid would be placed in the hands of the heads of departments. The Senators from Maine and Iowa (Hale and Allison), now so ardent for reform, were at that time members of the Republican Committee, and had no rebuke for the authors of this document.

Sen. Allison said the circular purported to have been issued by the Chairman of the Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania had no relation to the Congressional Committee. He had never seen the letter before. So far as he knew such a document was unknown in the history of the Congressional Committee, and he thought it deserved the condemnation of every member of the Republican party.

Sen. Vest made an elaborate statement relative to the strength of the liquor interest in the Republican and Democratic States, to show that it was utilized by the Republicans. He denied the Democratic party was held together by the hope of public plunder. If the party had depended upon that, it would have gone to pieces long ago; and in conclusion he would say to the gentlemen on the other side, you may defeat us again, that is in the hands of God and of the future, but so long as the love of local self government exists in the hearts of the American people so long, under God, will we meet you face to face and hand to hand to dispute your supremacy in these United States of ours.

Sen. Dawes said he was not a new convert to the cause of Civil Service Reform. The bill was right in principle, and while he thought it might be improved, he would cheerfully give it his support.

Sen. Morgan was strongly opposed to the provision in the bill confining the entrance into service to the lowest grade of clerkships; such a plan would not give efficient service; for example, there were numerous clerkships for which a proper preparation would be the education of a lawyer instead of that of a copyist.

Sen. Call made an argument to show the bill proposed to infringe upon the appointing power of the Executive, and was therefore unconstitutional. He also criticised some of the provisions of the bill. He yielded for a motion to go into Executive session. Agreed to.

Before the doors were closed, Sen. Hoar introduced a joint resolution, which was referred, authorizing the President to negotiate with the civilized powers for an international system whereby matters in dispute between different Governments agreeing thereto may be adjusted by arbitration, if possible, without recourse to war.

The Senate, after executive session, adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Brown's (Ind.) motion to reconsider the vote postponing the bill permitting retired army officers to hold civil offices in the Territories, prevailed, and the motion to postpone was withdrawn.

Mr. Townshend (Ill.) offered an amendment that when a retired officer accepted a Territorial office, his retired pay be covred into the Treasury. A lively debate ensued. Mr. Rogers opposed the bill as tending to build up a monied aristocracy. The amendment was lost and the bill passed.

Mr. Robeson—"No, I would not pass an unjust act, but I say it is reasonable they should convey United States troops at half the price that they are now exacting from the producer who has no remedy against them."

Mr. Holman (Ind.) supported the provision, denying it would invade the rights of private property.

General debate then closed, but without further action the committee rose, and after granting 25 leaves of absence, the House adjourned.

BURNED OUT.

The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser Office Destroyed, and the Masonic Temple Badly Damaged—Total Loss Not Less than $300,000.

BUFFALO, Dec. 21.—One of the most destructive fires that has visited Buffalo for a long time occurred this afternoon. Shortly before 5 o'clock passers by noticed a volume of smoke issuing from the roof of the magnificent new building of James D. Warren, proprietor of the Commercial Advertiser, corner of Washington and North Division streets.

News of the Week

TELEGRAPH AND MAIL.

The Easton, Pa., lock works have suspended operations.

Gothic Hall, an old landmark of Brooklyn, burned Tuesday.

The United States Supreme Court has adjourned till January 8.

Harrison, the revivalist, is credited with having made 330 converts at Decatur, Ill.

The Painesville, O., National bank is authorized to begin business, capital, $300,000.

Isaac Hedges, late President of the Mississippi Valley Cane Growers' Association, is dead.

At Vincennes, Ind., Mrs. Jones, on her way to her son's funeral, was thrown from a train and killed.

The National Committee of the Greenback Labor party will meet in St. Louis tomorrow afternoon.

David Dudley Field is in his 70th year, and is the oldest practical lawyer in the State of New York.

The American Live Stock and Meat Transportation Company of New York, capital $1,000,000, is incorporated.

Bishop Ireland, of St. Paul, Minn., has issued an edict prohibiting Roman Catholics from acting as saloon keepers.

Of five cases tried in the Detroit Police Court yesterday for violations of the liquor laws, two resulted in convictions.

At Denison, Tex., Willie Calbert, who shot a colored man while intoxicated, was shot dead by a man named McGlothlin.

James McKinney, New York, has made an assignment. Liabilities, $97,000; nominal assets, $76,000; actual assets, $34,000.

The Finance Committee of the Senate does not expect to be ready to report the tariff bill before the middle of January.

Rear Admiral James F. Schenck, died Thursday of neuralgia of the heart, aged 75 years. He had lived in Dayton, O., since 1808.

The Old South Church, of Boston, has called Rev. George A. Gordon, of Greenwich, Conn., at a salary of $8,000 and the parsonage.

W. L. Hillis, a notorious forger, who recently swindled a bank at Memphis, was caught at Deer Worth, where he was trying the draft dodge.

T. M. Pike & Co., extensive tea merchants of New York, have made an assignment without preferences. Liabilities upwards of $150,000; assets unknown.

Ross J. Alexander has been nominated by the Democrats of the Seventeenth Ohio District for both terms to fill the vacancies caused by the death of Dr. Updegraff.

The nailers and feeders of the Belleville, Ill., nail mill had a difference among themselves about the promotion of a feeder, and all the feeders in the mill, some 40, quit work.

The miners on the Comstock have formed a mutual insurance society. If a member is discharged the members of the society pay him $10 a week until he finds employment.

The President sent to the Senate the nominations of Ferdinand Husher, Register of Land Offices at La Crosse, and Herman W. Stone, Receiver of Public Moneys at Benson, Minn.

An effort is making to secure the pardon of James O'Brien, the self-confessed perjurer in the matter of the Morey letter forgery. Gov. Cornell will leave the matter to his successor.

At Plumas, Cal., last week the Chinese Masons attended the funeral of Mr. Edwards, a member of the Masonic order. It is, perhaps, the first instance of the kind in this country.

A furiously insane young woman, aged about 25, and dressed in dark cl thes, with black hair and eyes, evidently Irish, has been jailed in Jackson, Mich., till it can be discovered who she is.

A freight train was telescoped at Melrose, on the Troy & Boston road. The locomotive and 15 cars were wrecked. John Beargon, brakeman, was killed, and Frank Brundage, brakeman, is dying.

The suspended Rochester, N. Y., bank applied in March, 1880, for conversion into a National bank, but its business was so extended by rediscount and loans upon real estate that the application was denied.

Palmer, the Utica Prohibitionist journalist, who forged documents to indicate his private disloyalty to him, began the manufacture of shoes in Auburn prison last week, and will carry on the business for seven years.

Ida Sloan, who died of delirium tremens in the home for fallen women at Des Moines, is the woman who escaped the gallows in Chicago after killing a female roommate in State street and hiding the corpse in a closet.

The heirs of William Blackmore, residing in Pittsburg, have engaged attorneys to prosecute their claim to the ground in Washington on which stand the Capitol, White House, Treasury, and Navy buildings, and hundreds of residences and stores.

Rev. Dr. Robert McMurdy, an old and prominent Mason of Dayton, denies the Charlton Weed story regarding the drowning of Morgan, of anti-Masonic notoriety, and states that Morgan was induced to emigrate from this country, dying at length a natural death in Smyrna, Turkey.

The Senate Finance Committee, in its consideration of the tariff question, has voted to cut down the tariff on iron to $6 per ton and on steel rails to $17. It is said the Tariff Commission report recommended a duty of $8.72, which is the rate agreed upon by the House Ways and Means Committee.

The farm house of John Clark, Linn County, Kan., burned Sunday night and three small children perished in the flames. Clark had removed two children, and while he was searching for the third the other two wandered back into the house, and all were consumed.

Victor Jouannenault, who se death at Janesville is reported, was a graduate of the University of France, a tutor in the royal household at Brussels, a Catholic priest in New Orleans, and a teacher of Brigham Young's children at Nauvoo. For the past 30 years he led the life of a merchant.

A broken rail at South Connersville, Ind., threw one car of a passenger train off the track into Whitewater canal. Roadmaster A. J. Seward was injured, and Conductor John Colescott also hurt. Miss Georgia Fleming, daughter of the ex-State Treasurer, was very severely, perhaps fatally, injured, and several passengers slightly hurt.

A company has been organized at Seattle, Washington Territory, for the cultivation of hops. They have purchased 700 acres near the town, paying $22 per acre. They will plant 330 acres in March, and the first year's yield, estimated at 800 pounds to the acre, pays for the land. The expenses for the first season will be about $60,000.

At Indianapolis, last week, Jacob Busch sued James Langsdale to recover a $10 bet on the re-election of Sen. David Davis. Langsdale thereupon paid the bet, and retorted by filing against Busch for betting on the recent State election. The trial resulted in Busch being fined a fraction over $19, and he has now retaliated by filing against Langsdale malicious prosecution.

A citizen of Dale County, Ala., who is opposed to the prohibitory law of that County, got caught in an effort to test its constitutionality. He gave a drink of whisky to a friend who visited him, and then to test whether a man is prohibited from giving away a drink in his own house, requested his friend to go before the grand jury and have him indicted. The indictment was found and sustained, and the gentleman fined $100.

The staff of Gov. Butler, of Massachusetts will be, it is said composed of the following gentlemen: Adjutant General, Samuel Dalton, of Salem; Assistant Adjutant General, Inspector General, Quartermaster General, F. A. Stevenson, of Boston; Judge Advocate General, T. F. Verry, of Worcester; Surgeon General, O. G. Cilley, of Boston; Aids, J. C. Woodworth, of Chicopee, A. C. Drinkwater, of Braintree, J. P. Surrey, of Lawrence, and Harrison W. Hugsely, of Boston.

Walter F. Shibley, lawyer's clerk, and Henry L. Kipling, attorney, were locked up in the New York Tombs for participation in a scheme to make money from Wm. Sutphen, a lawyer. The latter, for certain business reasons, had transferred to Shibley, his clerk, real estate valued at $150,000, which in due time was to revert to the proper owner (Sutphen); but, Shibley decamped with the papers and made away with $18,823, and then, aided by Kipling and a woman, endeavored to extort money from Sutphen before the return of the documents.

At Hudson, as the family of Obed Frye were at the dinner table, an animal, supposed to be a lynx, weighing about 25 pounds, came with a bound and a yell through an open window, and, landed on top of a piece of furniture. Then it sprang onto the table, grabbed the piece of meat designed for the meal and showed a marked disposition to fight. The parties in the room made an attack on the ferocious beast, and in the contest Charlotte Frye was severely bitten in the hand, while Obed received several ugly scratches. The animal, finding itself getting beaten in the affray, bounded for the door, which was closed by a vigilant Frye just in time to catch the lynx by the leg, in which position it was held till the other Fryes could get around on the outside and dispatch the animal with clubs.

The number of emigrants arrived during the five months ended November 30, was 344,611.

It is reported that Robeson, of New Jersey, can have the Spanish Mission if he wants it.

At Birmingham, Conn., Bassett's paper box factory and Halleck's hardware factory burned. Loss, $10,000.

Sixteen thousand dollars' worth of lumber was destroyed by an ice gorge on the Alleghany River, Sunday.

During the absence of their parents three children named Barker, of Estelline, Dakota, were burned to death.

Patrick Hogan, a quarryman from Syracuse, New York, was killed by the cars at Greencastle, Ind., Sunday.

In a wrestling match at Cincinnati, Saturday, Wm. Muldoon won, giving Theo. Bauer three falls out of four.

Judge Highter has ordered the city of New Orleans to levy a tax of $650,000 yearly, to pay interest on bonds.

The Mount Tour Thread Company's works at East Hampton, Mass., burned. Loss, $50,000; insurance, $25,000.

W. C. Anderson, a telegraph operator at Montreal, by the will of his uncle in Scotland, comes into possession of $175,000.

The first part of the military force to reinstate Cetewayo on his throne started for Zululand. It consists of mounted infantry.

Mrs. Catharine Stoutenour, an inmate of the Columbus Asylum for Insane, flung herself from a fourth-story window, causing instant death.

In an affray in the West division of Chicago yesterday, Thomas Nory killed his brother Bohmiel with a revolver, and has been arrested.

A powder explosion occurred at Sliges Station, Cal., resulting in the instant death of one Chinese employe and the severe injury of another.

Teresa Thurla, the Chicago murderess, after being sentenced to one year in the Penitentiary, announced her intention to go on the stage after her release.

An illicit distillery in Cumberland County, Tenn., has been captured. It was a copper still. Fifteen bbls of beer and 125 gallons of singlings were destroyed.

At Cork, Poff and Barrett were convicted of the murder of Thomas Browne, a farmer, and sentenced to be hanged Jan. 23. The prisoners protested their innocence.

Gen. Chalmers made his appearance at Oxford, Miss., as an assistant United States attorney retained by the Government to aid in prosecuting offenses against the election laws.

The cotton factory at Brownsville, Tenn., was destroyed by fire. Loss, $77,000; insurance, $60,000. Over 100 employes are thrown out of work. The factory will not be rebuilt.

The Republicans of the Ninth Indiana District have chosen Mr. Charles Doxey, of Madison County, as their candidate to fill the unexpired term of the late Representative Orth.

It is now intimated, though there is very little evidence to support the theory, that a son of Mrs. Creighton, who was murdered at Lithopolis, is responsible for the deed. He is aged 14.

At Chicago judgment has been obtained against the Keystone Building Company for $159,000 in favor of Z. E. Elkins, of Colorado, who advanced them money and took bonds as collateral.

New England Society enjoyed its annual banquet at Delmonico's, New York, last night. Same Society at Philadelphia also gave a banquet, at which Gov. Hoyt and Gen. Sherman spoke.

John Graham, the English athlete, has arrived in Louisville, where he has challenged any person in America to wrestle for $500 or $1,000 a side. Clarence Whistler has accepted the challenge.

Charles Cook, a Yankton Indian, has been arrested at Yankton Agency for cheating the Indians at Pine Ridge Agency. He borrowed five horses to bring in goods to trade and sold the horses.

Prof. Wiggins, the terrific storm prognosticator, responded to an inquiry reiterating his prophecies, but declining to give his data in consequence of the severity with which he had been treated by the press.

In a livery stable in Cincinnati James Chumley mortally wounded Thomas Lamb with a revolver; then ran for a doctor, cared for his victim until he died, and surrendered himself at the station.

The Secretary of War has granted the request of the scientists who observed the transit of Venus at Ft. Brook, Fla., for permission to erect a brass tablet at that fort commemorative of their visit.

Fire destroyed D. J. Spaulding's Albion Mills at Black River Falls, Wis. Loss on mill over $50,000, insurance $22,000; loss on grain $5,000, insurance $1,000. Friction in the machinery assigned as a cause.

John Thompson Robertson, of Petersburg, Va., the oldest editor in the State, is dead. He was a man of great learning and had committed to memory the whole Book of Psalms and the New Testament.

The liabilities of James S. Smyth & Co., cotton goods manufacturers of Philadelphia are estimated at $450,000, and they will probably make an assignment to William Arrot. They employed 900 men.

James Bennett, an old and enterprising citizen of Manitowoc, Wis., committed suicide by shooting himself through the mouth with a shot gun. He was recently stricken with paralysis, and had become melancholy.

Charles F. Kring, the murderer of Dora Broemser in St. Louis eight years ago, had a hemorrhage which will soon result in clearing him of the gallows. He has had six trials, and has three times been sentenced to death.

Judge Righter, of New Orleans, has rendered a decision ordering the City Council to levy and collect annually a tax of $650,000 to pay the interest or prepare sinking fund for the redemption of the consolidated bonds.

J. F. Huber, Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. of Louisville, was attacked Saturday night by robbers, and received five severe wounds on the head, but his assailants were scared off and one wounded and caught by the police.

The United States Marshal at Philadelphia sent to the Department of Justice at Washington a bill for $69,000 for Federal Supervisors of elections, but it was cut down to $31,000 by allowing only for actual service.

The English Government has decided to prosecute Biggar, member of Parliament for Cavan, for his recent speech at Waterford, in which he denounced Earl Spencer, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, as a bloodthirsty English peer.

The United States coast survey steamer Bassler has returned from a seven months' survey of the southern coast of Alaska. They discovered several excellent harbors. The officers speak enthusiastically of the timber resources of the region visited.

Residents of Leadville will at once commence suits in the United States Courts to test the validity of the four placer patent claims on which the city is situated, on account of a recent decision ejecting squatters from their homes on the patented ground.

Rev. Robert Collyer in a sermon attacked the New York penal code as cruel and unjust to the poor, and gave notice that he should fight it with all the power he could summon. He pleaded for a day of rest, but thought the poor man should be allowed to work on Sunday if he can live the easier for it.

The Secretary of the Interior decided the case of the Alabama & Chattanooga Railroad Company vs. the South & North Railroad Company, involving the title to certain lands in Alabama covered by their overlapping land grants. Sec. Teller awards the lands to the first named company, and directs that certificates be issued accordingly.

Attorneys for Mrs. Labouchere state that the publicity given to her application for divorce at Richmond will probably lead to abandonment of the suit. It appears that Mr. Labouchere owns property in Virginia, and that no proceedings were instituted in order to pass title by showing the legality of his marriage. Instead of a decree, the English record of divorce will be filed.

The net receipts from the Ohio canals for the last fiscal year were $181,249.53, but subtracting expenses, etc., the amount to the credit of the Canal Fund is only $588.98. The Board of Public Works give reasons for the extraordinary expenses, and say they will be utterly unable to make permanent repairs now only temporarily adjusted, unless they are extended financial aid from some other source than the Canal Fund.

So general is the complaint of sand bagging and robbery in the streets of Chicago at night, and so fast is the crime growing, that the Lumberman's Exchange, aroused by the fact of one of their membership having been attacked, robbed and left senseless on the street, offer a reward of $500 for the perpetrator of the crime in a document, which sharply criticizes the City government for its laxness. Since the first of December 17 cases of this sort are on record, and probably many of them have been missed.

Speculation at Bismarck.

BISMARCK, Dakota, Dec. 19.—To-day the McKenzie & Coffin Addition was placed on the market, and over $75,000 worth of lots sold in less than two hours. This is the addition which the Northern Pacific sold two weeks ago for $50,000. The owners will make $100,000 out of it. This makes nearly $1,000,000 in transfers during the last month, and is beginning to rival the boom of Winnipeg.

YES, INDEED.

LABORER—Regarding the Beer Mug attentively—Ah! if I had now all the money you have cost me.

CONGRESSIONAL.

47th Congress—Second Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.

A number of petitions were presented for allowance of rebate in case of repeal of the tobacco tax and urging prompt action upon the question.

Sen. Sherman moved to proceed to the consideration of the Bonded Whisky bill, but Sen. Hale hoped he would not insist until the Civil Service bill was disposed of. Finally, after Sens. Bayard and Ransom had urged consideration of the former's resolution, declaring the sense of the Senate to be in favor of allowing rebate on stocks of tobacco on hand in case of repeal or reduction of the tax, Sen. Sherman withdrew his motion and Sen. Bayard called up the tobacco resolution.

Sen. Morrill offered an amendment, modifying the resolution so as to promise rebate only in case of failure to give ample notice of the time when the act to reduce the tax shall take effect. Adopted.

The resolution as amended was then adopted. It reads, "Resolved, that it is the sense of the Senate that wherever the internal revenue tax on tobacco, snuff or cigars is removed, unless ample previous notice of the time when the act is to take effect be given, a proportionate rebate of taxes paid on stocks on hand should be allowed."

The bill to extend the bonded period of whisky was then taken up.

Sen. Morrill offered an amendment providing that spirits produced on and after Jan. 1, 1883, shall be withdrawn in one year from the time they are entered or deposited in distillery warehouses. Rejected, ayes, 21; nays, 32.

At 2 P. M. the Civil Service bill came up as unfinished business. Sen. Sherman gave notice that as soon as this bill was out of the way, he would move to proceed with the whisky bill.

Sen. VanWyck moved to amend section 2 of the Civil Service bill so as to require absolutely the apportionment of offices among States and Territories on the basis of population.

The question was on Sen. Hoar's amendment to Sen. Allison's substitute for the first section to strike out the words "fixing the term of office of Commissioners." Sen. Allison said he had received a communication inquiring if "honest competition and probation as a condition of entrance to service and dismissal for legitimate cause only are the chief provisions of the bill," and he called upon the Senator in charge of the bill (Pendleton) to say whether he thought one of the chief merits of his bill was that it would prevent removals except for cause.

Sen. Pendleton said the bill imposed no limitation upon the constitutional power of the President in this respect.

Sen. Hoar explained the bill didn't interfere with existing status of any officer or with the constitutional power of the President to remove. But by taking away the motive to dismiss good men so as to give their places to others, it tended towards security of tenure.

Sen. Allison—"Then the Pendleton bill, as interpreted by its advocates here, does not provide for dismissal for cause only?"

Sen. Hawley said the power of removal was left untouched. Those who said the bill provided for life tenure were merely arguing that, as none but fit men would be appointed, and as no one could be removed for the purpose of giving his place to another, removals would not be made except for good cause.

Sen. Morgan preferred the Commissioners provided for in the bill should be removable by the President only with the consent of the Senate.

Sen. Hoar withdrew his amendment, and the question was taken on Sen. Brown's amendment making the term of the first Commissioners one, two and three years respectively, and that of their successors six years. Lost—yeas, 25; nays, 27.

Sen. Saulsbury offered an amendment, which was adopted, requiring the Commissioners to take an oath to perform their duties impartially and without political bias.

On motion of Sen. Plumb the salaries of the Commissioners were reduced from $4,000 to $3,500.

Sen. Logan gave notice that he would move to make it $4,000.

Sen. Mahone addressed the Senate in a prepared speech. He thought the direct accountability of public officers to the people the safest guaranty of a proper discharge of their duties, and believed the honorable condition of political parties would ever serve to stimulate to such performance of duties and form means of correcting abuses. Executive heads were responsible, and reform could not be effected by interposing an irresponsible agency like this commission between them and their responsibility. Turning from the bill he proceeded to reply to certain references to himself which he found in the Record of the first week of the present session. The Senator from Kentucky (Beck) had made an open circular letter issued by him (Mahone) as Chairman of the Readjuster State Committee of Virginia the basis, in part, of a resolution proposing a one-sided investigation.

Sen. Beck—"Does the Senator think the proposition a one-sided investigation to refer the whole matter to the Judiciary Committee of which the distinguished Senator from Vermont (Edmunds) is Chairman."

Sen. Mahone—"I certainly think it was a one-sided proposition to propose to investigate one side of the campaign in Virginia and not be willing to investigate the other."

Sen. Mahone assured Sen. Beck he would go with him in support of any measure within the bounds of the Constitution to secure fair and free elections and to prohibit and punish the use of money in connection with them. To lighten the burden of the Investigating Committee and for the satisfaction of the Senator interested, he would state the circular letter referred to had been sent to 282 of 800 postmasters in Virginia, and that of those only 92 responded. Of other Government officials in that State, about 220 in number exclusive of those in the lighthouse and life saving service, the letter had been sent to 46, and only 30 had responded. In the departments in Washington, exclusive of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and War Department, there were 342 employes charged to Virginia. The circular had been sent to 49, of these, and responses received from 49. He had nothing to conceal about this matter.

Sen. Mahone then read from the Record the remarks of Sen. Bayard in debate of the Beck resolution for investigation, in which he spoke of a statement published last Fall, that the decapitation of unfortunate officeholders from Virginia was so general that blanks were kept to be filled out with the names of victims removed because they refused to prostitute their places for political ends. "Aside from the criticism leveled at my conduct," said Mahone, "there is implied here a serious allegation against the conduct of Departments, which would not be becoming in any place upon such authority as that which the Senator has taken. The proprieties and usages of this chamber do not permit me to characterize this statement as it deserves; but I will say it is, from beginning to end and in all its parts untrue and without the slightest foundation in fact."

Sen. Beck—"I hope the Senator from Virginia will avail himself of the opportunity to go before the Judiciary Committee and make all those things clear."

Sen. Mahone—"I shall be happy to meet the Senator from Kentucky and his party sympathizers in the State of Virginia before that Committee, and I will say to him now that 'damned be he who first cries hold, enough!'" [Laughter.]

Sen. Beck—"I hope he will go there and stand up."

Sen. Mahone—"When I shall fail to stand up it will be time enough for the Senator from Kentucky to suggest I shall stand up."

Sen. Beck said in offering his resolution for investigation, he had merely recited notorious facts which he desired to have investigated, and he had not attempted to forestall action, but on the contrary proposed to refer the matter to the Committee on Judiciary. Whether the Senator from Virginia and the Readjuster party had any right to call upon postmasters and postmistresses in Virginia or whether objection was made in any official quarter to their doing so, was among things he desired to be ascertained by the investigation. He did not know whether Miss Betty Bumgartner was still postmistress at Honeyville, Va., or whether she was on.

Sen. Malone requested he would oblige him by producing the original circular alleged to have been addressed to that lady.

Sen. Beck admitted his inability to comply with the request. As to any temper exhibited by the Senator from Virginia about what had been done in this matter or his remark that if the proprieties of the place admitted, he would use stronger language, Sen. Beck thought he had done nothing which would bring him under the Virginia code. There were many unsettled "affairs" among gentlemen in that State, and perhaps they had better be settled before any suggestions were made about going to an outside State. "All I want is the truth," said Sen. Beck. "I don't want to fight, [laughter] and if the Judicial Committee report that everything done by the Senator from Virginia and the Readjuster party is all right, I shall be satisfied."

Sen. Brown offered an amendment to Allison's amendment providing that nothing contained in it should prevent the President from removing the Commissioners, or either of them, whenever he thought the public interest would be promoted by such action. Lost—ayes, 17; nays, 27.

Sen. Allison's amendment was then rejected—ayes, 23; nays, 23.

Sen. Voorhees moved to adjourn. Lost—ayes, 19; nays, 30.

Sen. Brown offered an amendment opening competitive examinations to persons outside of departments, but withdrew it and accepted as a substitute Pugh's amendment, providing that examinations shall be open to all, and that immediately after the passage of this act those now in office shall be divided into three classes—first, those whose places can be filled at once by others (under competitive examinations) without injury to the service; second, those who can be subject to such examinations six months after the passage of the act; and third, those who can be subjected to examination in 12 months.

Sen. Pugh explained and advocated this amendment.

Sens. Logan and Jones opposed it.

After some discussion Pugh modified it so as not to apply to soldiers and others mentioned in section 1754 of the revised statutes.

Sen. Voorhees, on behalf of the Senators opposed to the bill, proposed an agreement should be taken up to-morrow after the morning business and voted upon to-morrow at 6 o'clock.

Sen. Pendleton was willing to agree to this if unanimous consent could be obtained.

Sen. Edmunds objected, preferring to sit the bill out to-night.

Sen. VanWyck offered a resolution which was agreed to, directing an invest, gation and report by the Committee on Public Lands, as to whether payments should be made upon the contract made under the the deposit system for services before such surveys had been inspected by the officers created for that purpose by the act of the last session. The committee is given power to send for persons and papers.

Sen. Voorhees then renewed his motion to adjourn. Agreed to.

HOUSE.

Mr. Kelly (Pa.), acting under instructions of the Committee on Ways and Means, moved that when the House adjourned to-morrow it would be to meet Wednesday next.

Mr. Blackburn (Ky.) inquired whether it was the understanding that on Wednesday the House adjourn for three days longer.

Mr. Kelly replied that was certainly not his intention. After a vain attempt to secure a quorum the motion was withdrawn.

Mr. Carlysle (Ky.), from the Ways and Means, reported back the joint resolution providing for the importation free of duty of books for the use of the blind.

Mr. Hiscock (N. Y.) offered a resolution declaring that on and after Wednesday, the 3d of January next, the hour for the meeting of the House shall be 11 A. M. during the remainder of the session. Adopted.

Mr. Kelly again made the motion to adjourn from to morrow till Wednesday. Carried.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Army Appropriation bill.

The provision of the bill providing that hereafter all officers now on the retired list or who may be hereafter retired from active service except in case of the General of the Army, shall be borne on the rolls of the army and shall receive the pay now provided by law, as of the rank they actually held in the army at the date of their retirement, gave rise to some debate and was finally passed over informally.

Mr. Thomas (Ill.) offered and advocated the amendment providing that aides de camp (except those of the General of the Army) shall not receive any additional rank or pay by reason of having been detailed to staff duty. The amendment was agreed to.

Pending action on the amendment, Hewitt (N. Y.) gave notice of the amendment which he would offer to the clause regulating the compensation of the Pacific Railroad companies for army transportation, providing that if any company shall deem that the compensation allowed is not fair and reasonable, it may bring suit in the Court of Claims against the United States to recover any such further sum as shall be required to provide a fair and reasonable compensation. It shall have the right of appeal to the United States Supreme Court at both courts shall give its cause the precedence of all other business.

The questions recurring on Mr. Brown's amendment the vote stood 97 yeas to 4 nays, and Mr. Upson raised the point of no quorum. The roll was then called and disclosed the presence of only 129 members.

The Committee rose and reported the absences from the House. The Speaker announced the appointment of Mr. Hill (Ill.) on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Mr. McLean (Mo.) on the Committee on Pensions, Bounty and Back Pay.

There were 28 leaves of absence granted, making 183 members absent on leave, and then the House adjourned, the common understanding being no business will re transacted to-morrow.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.

Sen. Vest presented petitions for the repeal of the tax on tobacco.

Sen. Chilicott offered a resolution, requesting the President to order the Departments closed early during Christmas week, so as to give the clerks the usual half holiday.

Sen. Edmunds objected to its present consideration, and it went over under the rules.

Sen. Plumb called up the bill providing for holding a term of the United States District Court at Wichita, Kansas. Passed.

Sen. Logan moved that when the Senate adjourns to-day, it be to meet on Wednesday next, but at the suggestion of Sen. Anthony, withdrew his motion temporarily.

Sen. Walker gave notice that on the 12th of January he would call up the bill to quiet the title to certain lands in the upper peninsula of Michigan.

At the close of the morning hour the Civil Service bill came up as unfinished business.

The question being on Sen. Plumb's amendment providing that the present force in the department, except soldiers, etc., be subjected to competitive examinations like persons outside, and, to facilitate such examinations shall be divided into three classes, Sen. Jones (Fla.) opposed the amendment, saying he favored the bill as it came from the Committee.

Sen. Morgan thought Plumb's amendment would purge the departments of inefficient and supernumerary employes.

Sen. Garland advocated it as containing the only reformatory meat in the measure and as being the only thing in the bill which we had work a practical reformation of the service.

Sen. Garland said: The cause of the verdict rendered by the people at the recent elections was not dissatisfaction with the employes or the management of departments. It was that the country had become tired of wearing the harness of war in a time of peace. The country, like the man who has lain too long on one side, had grown sore and restless, and had turned over on the other side for relief. The Senator from Ohio (Mr. Sherman) had said the Republican defeat in that State resulted from a desire for free whisky "and opposition to Sunday law," but the explanation did not account for the result of elections in other States—for the electricity along the whole line. The victory belonged not necessarily to the Democratic party. The party that puts itself in position to bring the country back to a peace basis was the one that the people would indorse. It might not be the Republican party; it might not be a third party; it might not be the Democratic party; though he thought the choice would fall upon that party if it conducted itself wisely.

Sen. Logan said that during the rebellion, while several States claimed that they were out of the Union, many of the offices which would have belonged to those States had been given to persons residing in Washington, many of them formerly citizens of Southern States, and he was opposed to any amendment which would turn out those competent clerks from the places which had fallen to them, not by any fault of their own, but by the fault of States to which places, under other circumstances, would have belonged.

Sen. Garland said the principle of distribution of appointments among the States had been recognized by the law prescribing such distribution in the Treasury Department, though the statement had been made here that the law was not enforced.

Sen. Sherman said the law had been in operation since the time when Bristow was Secretary of the Treasury.

Sen. Windom stated that during his term as Secretary he had ordered the removal of a man for having made a false statement in regard to his residence, and in no case had a man been appointed knowingly as from a State to which he did not belong.

Sen. Bayard said the bill had originated with members of the Republican party, and he would not seek to deprive them of the credit of having become conscious of the existence of those abuses in the civil service which Democrats had suffered under the Republican party. The spoils system had flourished regardless of protests and demands for justice. He recognized fully the evils of that system, and did not desire to see the Republican spoils system succeeded by the Democratic spoils system. The law must be executed in the spirit in which it was intended—as a measure reforming existing abuses, making a new test for appointment to office, and with that new test necessarily a new tenure.

Sen. Allison—"So I understand your construction of this bill to be that a man who is capable, intelligent and one of good character will be continued in office while he performs his duties, if the spirit of the law is carried out by the Executive who administers it."

Sen. Bayard—"This bill does not undertake too much. I do not think the Senator from Georgia, or any other Senator, should expect this bill now to regulate the tenure of civil office and make final declaration upon a much debated question of constitutional power of the Executive as to appointment and removal."

Sen. Plumb thought the demands of public opinion on this subject of civil service reform would be fully met by a bill providing for three things: First, distribution of offices among the States and Territories, or Congressional Districts, according to population. Second, non-partisan selection of appointees from the District according to their political status at the time appointments are made. Third, stringent prohibition of assessments for political purposes.

Sen. Platt questioned Brown as follows: In the event that the Democratic party comes into power in 1884, which the Senator hopes for, is it his desire that removal shall be made of all clerks and employes now in office, because they are Republicans, and their places filled by Democrats?

Sen. Brown—It is my desire that justice and equity should be administered in that matter. It is right that a majority of the people of this country should have some share in the offices and employments of the Government. He was in favor of a fair division of the patronage of the Government among the tax-payers and burden-bearers first, and after that, scrupulous adherence to the Civil Service rules. He intended to offer an amendment providing for this.

Sen. Brown asked the Senators on the Republican side to say whether they agreed with the Senator from Delaware (Bayard) in thinking the bill as it now stood would give outsiders the same right to compete for all vacancies in the service that persons already in office would have.

No answer was made.

Sen. Butler—Silence gives consent.

Sen. Brown—But I don't see in their countenances exactly what I desire. [Laughter.]

Sen. Pendleton said if it was the opinion of any Senator that the bill in its present form would not permit competition by persons outside of departments for any vacancy that might occur, he would vote with Sen. Brown to amend the bill in that respect.

Sen. Pugh's amendment was rejected, 18 to 23, as follows:

YEAS.		
Barrow,	George,	Pugh,
Brown,	Gorman,	Slater,
Butler,	Jackson,	Vance,
Cockrell,	Jones (Fla.)	Vest,
Coke,	Lamar,	Voorhees,
Garland,	Pendleton,	Williams,
	NAYS.	
Aldrich,	Chilcott,	Miller (Cal.)
Allison,	Davis (Ill.)	Morrill,
Anthony,	Edmunds,	Platt,
Bayard,	Frye,	Plumb,
Blair,	Hawley,	Rollins,
Cameron (Pa.)	Hill,	Van Wyck,
Cameron (Wis.)	Hoar,	Windom.
Conger,	Logan,	

Sen. Allison offered the amendment of which he gave notice the other day, and it was rejected—18 to 26.

Sen. Van Wyck's amendment, pending since yesterday, was agreed to, striking out the words "As far as practicable," so as to require that appointment of officers among the States and Territories shall be made absolutely on a basis of population.

On motion of Sen. Morgan, the first section of the bill was amended so as to provide that there shall be three Commissioners instead of five, and they shall hold no other places under the United States.

Sen. Voorhees offered the amendment of which he gave notice the other day, providing that applicants for appointment as Commissioners under this act shall be examined by a Board of School Teachers, to ascertain their competency to prescribe rules for examination of other candidates for office. Rejected.

On motion of Sen. Brown, the provision in the bill that "promotion shall be from lower grades to higher, on a basis of merit and competition," was struck out.

Sen. Hawley offered as three additional sections his bill to prevent assessments for political purposes.

In the discussion Sen. Butler asked Sen. Hoar if he thought Congress had a right to prohibit the giving of money by an employe of the Government for a political purpose.

Sen. Hoar said: "Yes, for corrupt political purposes."

Sen. Butler asked him how employes could know that it was for such a purpose.

Sen. Hoar—To buy shot guns to shoot negroes would be such a purpose.

Sen. Butler—Or to buy votes and disfranchise 150,000 people, as it is said they have done in Massachusetts.

Sen. Hoar—What does the Senator mean by that?

Sen. Butler—I mean that it is stated they have disfranchised 136,000 men in Massachusetts. I propounded a polite inquiry to the Senator, and when he injects into his reply a piece of venom, I propose to answer him in the same manner. He undertook to thrust at me a very unworthy suggestion, and when he proposes to discuss his shotgun policy with me, I am prepared to meet him.

Sen. Hoar—Mr. President, I made no allusion whatever to the Senator in any form, shape or manner. I alluded to one manner of using political contributions, and if any personal application has been made of that remark—

Sen. Butler—Ah, Mr. President—

Sen. Hoar interrupted, claiming he had the floor, but the presiding officer awarded it to Sen. Butler, who again said he had asked a question in politeness and good temper, to which Sen. Hoar had replied in an extremely offensive manner, and that when he said he (Sen. Butler) made personal application of the remark, he intended to say by innuendo what he, perhaps, dare not say directly. Not that he was afraid of being held to any personal responsibility, for he (Sen. Butler) had no idea of having any such personal issue with him.

Sen. Hoar—I made no personal allusion whatever to the Senator from South Carolina. I alluded to one form of political crime in this country without any thought of individual application to any Senator. I wish to say to the Senator from South Carolina that I never hint or insinuate anything to anybody. If my public duty requires me to state my opinion, whether creditable or otherwise, of the character or history of that Senator, or any other, I shall do it in terms, the clearness and distinctness of which will leave him in no doubt as to my meaning. [Slight applause in gallery.]

After remarks by Sen. Vest, the Senate adjourned until Wednesday, with unanimous agreement that the bill shall be taken up after morning business; debated under the 10-minute rule, and disposed of that day.

HOUSE.

The House, without transacting business, at 12:50 adjourned until Wednesday.

CAVE DWELLERS.

Explorations in New Mexico—Well Preserved Mummies.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Col. James Stephenson, of the Bureau of Ethnology, has returned from New Mexico where he has been making some further explorations of the ancient cliff towns. He has made an important discovery which is believed to definitely fix the cave dwellers at a much later period than has been supposed by archæologists. It has been thought heretofore that these cave-dwellers lived far back in the distant past measured by hundreds of ages. Col. Stephenson's discoveries indicate that not more than three centuries ago they were living in these habitations carved out of the face of the cliffs, and that the race is of the comparatively recent time. This conclusion is arrived at by the finding of a lot of mummies, well preserved, found in position in a cyst encased in a fabric woven from a material resembling cotton. Upon close examination, however, it is found that the cloth, instead of cotton, is made from the fiber of a reed similar to flax. Specimens of the reed with its roots and stalk still preserved, were found in the remains of a house, which opens the way to the definite ascertainment of the actual material used. An ancient Spanish writer, who visited this country not over three centuries ago, gives an account of those people, with a description of the cloth of which they made their garments, and other particulars about the customs of the natives, which are substantiated by Col. Stephenson's recent find. The mummies also are clothed in a kind of neatly-made sandals, which affords another point of identification. Besides the mummies, Col. Stephenson brought 15,000 pounds of pottery.

The Political Muddle in Illinois.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—Ramm, Cullum and Oglesby are beginning to be very much afraid that David Davis may, after all, be returned. A lawyer, named E. M. Haines, who was elected by the Independents in Lake County, is likely to cut a big figure in the fight. Years ago he was Speaker of the House, when he and a couple of fellow Independents held, as they will the next session, the balance of power. He is the shrewdest parliamentarian that will be in the body, and a very long-headed man. "I have," said Haines, "two friends who will act with me in the next House. The Republicans cannot elect a Speaker, neither can they elect a Senator without us."

There is pretty certain to be a deadlock in the House over its organization unless the straightout Republicans tear up their rules of practice and procedure and seat the contesting members. The fight will be over the Speakership of the House, where the Republican majority is narrow. When the Speakership contest is settled, it will most likely be settled by a dicker that will provide for the Senatorship.

Capt. Howgate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Members of Congress and Government officials generally are becoming greatly interested in the oft-repeated inquiry, "What has become of Howgate?" Since his departure so hastily made from this City, not one word has been heard from him; nothing that could throw one ray of light upon the hiding place of the gallant Captain who relieved the Treasury of some hundreds of thousands of dollars. Even his female friend and conjutor, Miss Nellie Burrills, is still absent and sends no word as to her retreat. It has been charged in official quarters that certain Congressmen who were friends of Howgate in his palmy days have used their influence to prevent proper search being made for him. This talk having reached the ears of Democratic Congressmen, they see in it food for political capital, and this feeling has resulted in a resolution being introduced in the House by Mr. Beltzhoover, of Pennsylvania, calling on the Secretary of War for full information in regard to all measures that have been taken to secure the arrest and trial of Howgate.

Virginia Debt Legal Test.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—A case arising out